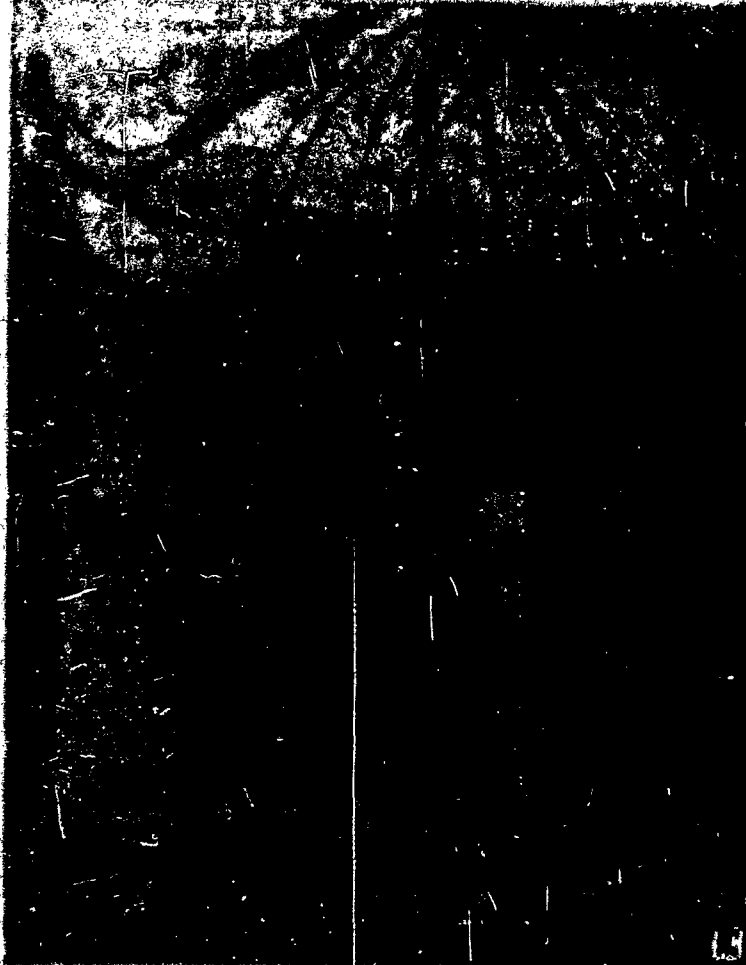


'Rampart of Bitterness' Rises Round Germany, Bishops Warn

WASHINGTON (NC)—A rampart of bitterness and enmity is being erected around Germany due to the ruthless interference of Nazi officials with freedom of conscience and the religious life of the populations, the German hierarchy declares in a memorial submitted to their Government, in which they once more appeal for a cessation of the persecution of religion. A copy of the document has reached this country and is reproduced here by a highly reliable source.

IN A BOMBED CHAPEL IN TRIPOLI



Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, Military Vicar of the U. S. Armed Forces, and Brigadier General A. C. Strickland, of the Ninth Air Force, chat with a group of nuns in the ruined chapel of the Franciscan Missionaries in Tripoli. The church was hit during a night raid by Nazi bombers. OWI Photo. (N.C.W.C.)

The German prelates point out that equal anti-religious measures have been adopted not only within Germany proper but also in invaded lands, citing specifically persecutory activities in Alsace-Lorraine, Luxembourg, Poland and Yugoslavia.

Dated at Fuld, where the German Hierarchy assembled in Annual Conference, on Dec. 15, last, the memorial is signed for all the Bishops by His Eminence Adolf Cardinal Bertram, Archbishop of Breslau. It is directed to the Minister of the Reich for Church Affairs, the Minister for the Interior and the Chief of the Reich Chancellery.

VIGOROUS ADMONITION
The Bishops close their memorial with this admonition: "One can not undertake to build a new and false Europe until he has destroyed Christianity at the same time. The West is inseparably associated with Christianity. If Christianity is destroyed, a real substitute for it can never be provided."

At its outset, the Bishops note in their memorial that the Nazi Government failed to make reply to a similar memorial of complaint drafted by the prelates one year previously on Dec. 10, 1941.

Kells Have Grown Worse
"We have asked for relief," the Bishops state, "not only because of religious interests, but also from love of the Fatherland. . . . The evils complained of continue to exist; some, in fact, have grown worse."

"This plea of ours extends—and that is the ground for the new petition—with the same urgency to the vital interests of the Catholic Church and the free practices of the religion of Catholic Christians in the territories that recently have come to Germany."

"We cannot shut our eyes," the Bishops tell the Nazi authorities, "to the great misery of these German people, and we must also lift our voices for the sake of the respect for the name German. It is incomprehensible that now, in the midst of this hard war, German people who have come to the Reich with great confidence and with expectation raised to a high pitch are forced back by Germany, embittered to the depths of their souls. Around Germany, in all the occupied territories, a rampart of bitterness and enmity is being erected, which has arisen in large part because of the ruthless interference of the officers of the party and the civil administration with freedom of conscience and the religious life of the population."

In their reference to Alsace-Lorraine, the German Bishops tell how the arriving Reich troops were received there with great enthusiasm. The memorial then reviews the bitter persecution of their religion that has been the reward for Alsace-Lorraine.

"Even worse," the prelates state, "is the hostile rejection of all Germans which has grown up in Luxembourg, Poland and Yugoslavia."

In telling of the intensity of the persecution in Poland, the Bishops open with these words: "Even more cheerless than in the West is the religious situation in the newly-attached eastern territories." Particularly bitter, they state, are those of German blood who remained loyal to their German traditions throughout the years of Polish rule and who now find themselves "treated as public enemies and placed under surveillance" by the Nazi invaders.

Of those "regions which have returned to the Reich after belonging to Yugoslavia for 20 years, the German Bishops say: "There, too, almost all the priests and members of Orders have been forced out, entirely without means into lower Ukraine, occupied by the Italians, or Croatia, or have been placed in concentration camps."

"This treatment of the Slovenes," the German Bishops continue, "deeply believing and zealous in religion, has caused the enthusiasm for Germany that existed in 90 per cent of the population, according to the judgment of persons acquainted with the country, to turn into hatred of the Germans."

VATICAN TO RADIO TALKS TO RUSSIA

LONDON (NC)—Vatican Radio's weekly talks to Russia will "mirror Catholic life in the world over and will help to reinforce the return of Russia to the one true God," the station's announcer said in his broadcast to Moscow on the night of the opening transmission to the U. S. S. R.

"The broadcasts, prepared and spoken by Russians," said the announcer, "will show what form in Russia realizes that besides the Russian Orthodox Church there is a Russian Catholic Church."

"The message for Russia will be a message of peace and unity preparing Russia to recognize in the Church of Jesus the one center and ground of truth, so that the Russian people, participating in the one true faith, may find again all the fulness of Christian life."

Names of Americans Held In Japan To Be Given Out At Vatican

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio)—While keeping up its regular cabled communications with the Apostolic Delegation in Washington, D. C., which provides information regarding American soldiers held prisoners of war in Italy, the Vatican Office of Information is now providing to the Charge d'Affaires of the United States at the Vatican lists of American soldiers held prisoners of war in Japan. These latter lists have been made available to the Vatican office through the new service established with the Apostolic Delegation in Tokyo.

The Vatican Office of Information, it is now announced, hopes to establish direct radio-telephone contact between the Apostolic Delegation in Tokyo and the Vatican, thus accelerating the transmission of news regarding prisoners of war and internees in Japan.

A Thousand Names
The first list of Americans held prisoners in Japan communicated to the United States Government by the Vatican Office of Information contained about a thousand names.

The Vatican office also reports handling approximately 7,000 Easter messages from English-speaking prisoners of war in Italy. A Jesuit, Father Shannon, who has been visiting English-speaking prisoners of war in Italy for the Vatican, has reported that his visitation is half completed and that some 2,000 men have approached the Sacraments so far. He also says Catholic life is well organized among the prisoners and that they are well treated. The priest said that he himself has been shown the utmost courtesy by the Italian military authorities.

Another priest acquainted with the Slav languages is engaged on a similar mission for the Vatican.

White Fathers Garbed Like Arabs Startle U. S. Troops They Will Serve In Africa

By LIEUT. DONALD T. SHEEHAN, A. C.

SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA—The "White Fathers," African missionary community whose white habits and red hats resemble the attire of local Arabs, have been appointed to handle ecclesiastical affairs in relation to United States forces in North Africa, in cooperation with the regular Army chaplains.

The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the Armed Forces of the United States, made the appointment during his recent visit to this theater of war.

The striking similarity between their apparel and that of the Arab population has caused more than one American soldier to look twice, and then give up in utter confusion, when the second glance revealed a rosary of white and black beads about the neck of the wearer.

First House in 1868
It all started back in 1868 when the late Cardinal Lavigerie, then a Bishop, opened the first house for the training of "The Missionaries of Africa," later popularly called the "White Fathers" because of their white garments—robe "gandourah" and hooded cloak "burnous." Topping off their picturesque appearance is the soft red round hat, the "Sheikha" of the Arabs. This headpiece is often erroneously called a "fez"—a hard cone-shaped red hat of Turkish origin.

Like the Marabouts or Molems priests, who often carry a kind of "rosary" made of 90 brown beads, each representing a perfection of Allah, the "White Fathers" wear a rosary of large black and white beads around the neck.

Many are the proud possessors of beards luxuriant as any grown by the Arabs. When the Society was founded, beards were the rule among the North African clergy.

Their apostolate covers an immense area of territory inhabited by more than 20 million people. With either a Bishop or Prefect at the head of each, they operate 24 missions.

One look at their statistics for the year 1942 will convince even the most skeptical that the "White Fathers" are not just a religious order, but a powerful force in the African continent.

British Bishops Vote To Defend Schools

LONDON.—A declaration that they will defend the Catholic school system by all lawful means against any proposal that threatens its existence and a warning to the faithful to be prepared for whatever lies ahead were contained in a statement issued by the Members of the Hierarchy of England and Wales at their Low Week meeting.

"We shall not give up our schools," the Bishops' statement declared. "This is our firm determination."

The meeting of the Hierarchy was held at St. Joseph's Missionary College, Mill Hill, and for the first time all of the Bishops were accommodated under one roof.

Form World of Grace

Death has its characteristic graces and joys. The presence and assistance of Mary and Joseph, the angels and our patron saints form a very world of grace, which infuses its consoling beam into the dying soul.

Education In Philippines Must Conform To Military Policy, Japan Radio States

NEW YORK (NC)—In conformance with a pattern dictated by Japan's Premier Hideki Tojo, the present education system in the Philippine Island will be scrapped in favor of schooling according to the Japanese Imperial policy, it has been announced by the Japanese-controlled radio in Manila in a broadcast reported to the Office of War Information.

Ousts Uniformed Nazis From Church

NEW YORK (NC)—A Nazi newspaper asserted the priest made himself "ridiculous," but he succeeded in having a uniformed Nazi labor serviceman and an auxiliary policeman ejected from the Pijnacker Street Church in Amsterdam, the Netherlands Information Bureau here learned from London.

The priest merely was carrying out the orders of the Netherlands Bishops, who have decreed that Nazis and Nazi supporters were to be denied the Sacraments. When the incident became known, the Nazi newspaper commented: "Can the brutality of chasing uniformed racial-comrades into the street be excused. . . . In the interests of the Church it is high time that these gentlemen (the Catholic priests) started to understand how ridiculous they make themselves."

BISHOP BLESSES CHURCH BUILT BY PARISHIONERS

LONGUEUIL, Que.—A new Catholic church in Longueuil, Quebec, largely made possible through generous donations of property and voluntary labor of parishioners, was blessed by the Most Rev. A. Forget, Bishop of St. John's, in the parish of St. Charles Borromeo.

Two families donated the land, another a barn which formed the body of the new church, while other members of the parish gave their services to help the carpenters in their work of remodeling the barn.

"O Lord, let me not walk my own way without thinking of Thee," Cardinal Newman prayed frequently.

The broadcast stated the first step in carrying out the change of the educational system will be a requirement that Filipino "subscribe to the Japanese language." The broadcast also stated: "The Japanese educational system lies in the fact that education is superseded by the people's complete awareness of national aims. The Japanese imperial policy must be the basis for all education."

In a shake-up of his war cabinet on April 20, Premier Tojo removed Kunihiko Hashida as Minister of Education and assumed the office himself. He held the office for only three days, but in that time designed the pattern for the Japanese educational system and key officials and staff members of his ministry.

In announcing the change of policy, Premier Tojo asserted in a broadcast beamed to the Japanese Empire and picked up by U. S. monitors that "education must conform to the progress of the military situation" and that "education for the sake of education" must be terminated.

After fashioning the educational policy, Premier Tojo named Viscount Nagakami Okabe, attorney and member of the House of Peers, as Minister of Education.

Carmelite Prior Hits Those Who Cry Out For Bombing of Rome

LONDON (NC)—Twenty out of 20 people who cry out for the bombing of Rome are not really concerned with the military aspect of the move," said the Rev. Martha E. Lynch, Carmelite Prior at Faversham, Kent. "They would like to see Rome bombed because of what Rome has stood for through successive generations of Christian life."