

Possibility of Rome Bombing Finds Vatican City Life Calm

VATICAN CITY, (NC)—Recent declarations by a spokesman of the Royal Air Force that England would not hesitate to bomb Rome if the exigencies of the war should warrant have made not the slightest change in the way of life in Vatican City. It is particularly noteworthy that in the "sovereign territory" of the Vatican, no steps whatever have been taken to remove art objects to places of security or to shore up edifices with protective casings.

Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, has said the House of Commons that "we would not hesitate to bomb Rome to the best of our ability and as heavily as possible if the course of the war should render such action convenient and helpful."

Not only has everything been left in its normal place in the Vatican territory, but no apparent precautions have been taken for the protection from aerial bombardment of works of art and sacred relics in the basilicas and churches of Rome.

Thus it may be concluded that those responsible do not wish to believe or to entertain the thought of the bombardment of Rome, involving almost certain damage or destruction for renowned churches and buildings in Rome belonging to the Vatican.

It has been recalled here that during the course of centuries no political or other contingent situation has ever deprived Rome of the sacred character it enjoys as the center of Catholicism.

Meanwhile, the Italian Press gives prominence to damage inflicted by aerial attacks on cities in all parts of Italy.

The papers have published a telegram of sympathy sent by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to the Most Rev. Angelo Palmisani, Archbishop of Messina, following the bombardment of Messina on the night of June 13, when the Cathedral was destroyed and 18 other churches in that city were destroyed or damaged.

When the city of Messina suffered an earthquake in 1898 portions of the Cathedral were left standing. The edifice was then rebuilt at tremendous expense. It is reported that even those portions of the structure that withstood the earthquake of 33 years ago have now been destroyed.

The Cathedral of Livorno and four other churches in that city were struck during the bombardment of June 13.

Cologne Cathedral Reported Damaged But Not Destroyed

ZURICH, (NC)—The original report claiming that the world-famous Cologne Cathedral had been destroyed in a recent air raid on the Rhine city fortunately is being revised although reports reaching Switzerland still indicate extensive damage was done to the great edifice.

Word reaching here says heavy bombs pierced the Cathedral roof and exploded inside, causing considerable havoc. It is said the baptistry, organ and valuable sculptures in the left nave were destroyed. The exterior walls are reported to have been marked by fragments of bombs that exploded outside. The original story that the entire foundation was shaken and that the walls and two large spires were threatened is unconfirmed.

Catholic Property Slightly Damaged in Calcutta Air Raids

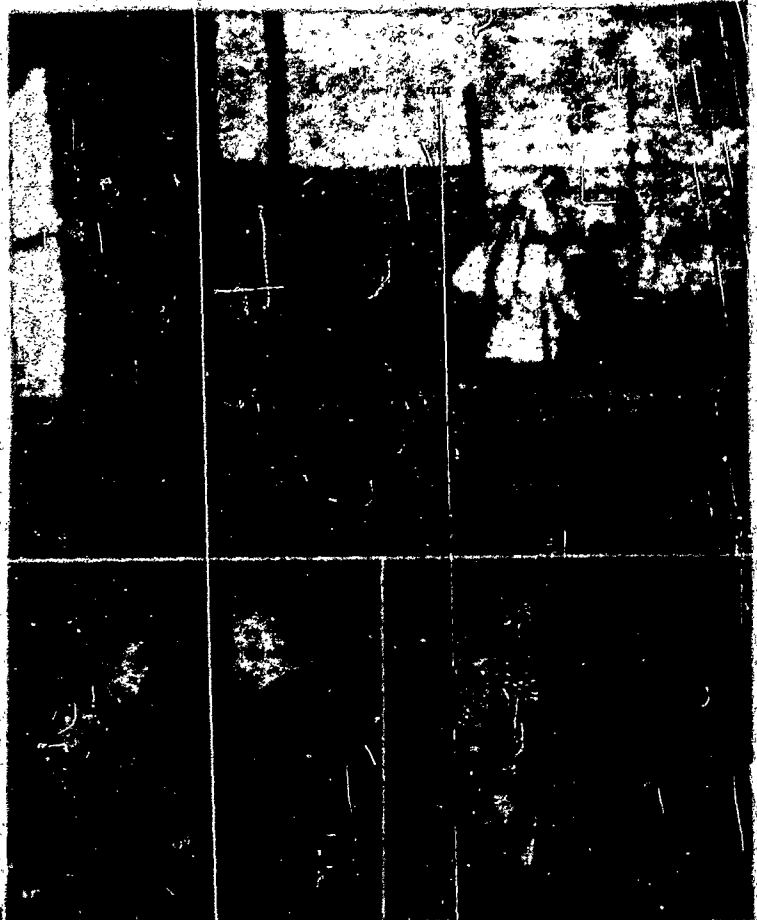
CALCUTTA, India.—A thorough check-up after half dozen air raids on Calcutta by Japanese planes revealed only negligible damage has been caused to Catholic property.

The investigation revealed one bomb fell upon a small Catholic institution, doing only slight damage, while another fell in the compound of a Catholic school, but failed to explode.

Hears Army Call

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Commissioner in the Army Chaplain Corps, the Rev. Thomas Rusk, M.S., who has served as treasurer of the La Salle Missionary College here since its founding in 1940, has been ordered to report at the Harvard University training school.

MILITARY VICAR CONTINUES TOUR



Continuing his visitation to American military posts and their chaplains overseas, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, Military Vicar of the Armed Forces, is pictured (upper photo) giving Holy Communion to soldiers at a field Mass somewhere in southern Persia; (lower left) with Chaplain James A. Carey, U.S.A., of New York and Seton Hall College, somewhere in the Middle East; (lower right) greeting Johnny Vincent, 15-year-old French orphan, "adopted" by an American Air Force unit in North Africa. (N.C.W.C.)

Communism Folded In Costa Rica Asserts Archbishop

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, (NC)—Communism in Costa Rica "has disappeared without struggle or violence in a truly Costa Rican way," asserted the Most Rev. Victor Sanabria, Archbishop of this city.

In reply to a query concerning the newly formed political party, Vanguardia Popular, he said that "Catholics who so desire can join."

On June 13, the Political Office of the Communist Party of Costa Rica called a National Conference of the Party, to discuss the dissolution of Communism in Costa Rica and to found a new political party, called Vanguardia Popular. Dr. Manuel Mora Valverde, formerly General Secretary of the Communist Party, was elected its leader.

In a letter addressed to the Archbishop of San Jose, Dr. Valverde asked whether there existed any obstacle against Catholics joining this political group. Archbishop Sanabria, after consultation with the other bishops of Costa Rica, replied that the new party "neither in itself, nor in its program contains anything that might be designated by the word 'Communism.' Wherefore Catholics are permitted to join this party as another political group."

"The new party," continues the Archbishop, "has incorporated in its social program a clause which says: 'Vanguardia Popular favors the policy of President Calderon Guardia based upon the Papal Encyclical and declares that this policy fits in without contradiction with the plans of the Party for the economic and social organization of the country.'"

Cause Traffic Jam

CHUNGKING, China.—Catholic members of the United States armed forces are creating a traffic problem each Sunday in Chungking, China. Packed army cars in the Kuanming streets are causing a jam while the soldiers attend Mass in the Catholic Cathedral. Local police have now ruled that cars may be parked on only one side of the street.

Pope's Encyclical Defines Doctrine Of 'The Mystical Body'

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primarily in virtue of His Supreme dignity and pre-eminence and because while exercising power invisibly and directly over the spirits and hearts of men He also exercises visible power over the Universal Church through the Roman Pontiff, His Vicar on earth, and over every single diocese through the Bishops.

Christ is also the support of His Mystical Body both because He sustains the Church juridically through the three-fold commission of the Apostles to teach, sanctify and govern, and because He is continually communicating to the Church His Holy Spirit, which is, as it were, the soul of the Mystical Body. For these two reasons the Church cannot live the very life of Christ and, almost as another Christ, to perpetuate through the centuries the work of redemption begun in the Cross.

Finally Christ is also the Saviour and Sanctifier of the Mystical Body because, day after day, He continues in the Church and shares with the Church the work begun on the Cross.

First the early Christian writers, then Christian theology, characterized the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ to distinguish it from the physical body. Members of the Church are persons, each with complete individuality and individually destined for the vision of God.

As believers we are united, not only through a common, supernatural and God-given bond of authority, which directs the wills of one and all towards that end, but we are made one in a much closer way by an inward element, active, life-giving, from within us, a supernatural element which is the Holy Spirit with His gifts and extraordinary graces.

Christian Unity

In the second part of the Encyclical the Pope speaks of our union with Christ in and through the Church. This is first affected by theological virtues, which bring us to accept the truths revealed by God and guarded by the Church; to hope for the good that Jesus Christ has promised to His followers and which may be attained along the paths marked out by the Church and with the strength which she bestows: to love, with a supernatural love, God and neighbor, and in a special way those belonging to the Church.

This union is revealed in yet a deeper way, first in the Heart of Our Saviour, where He keeps all members present to His saving love; and finally in the Holy Eucharist, the symbol of unity, food for the wayfarer, and earnest of life eternal.

Recommend Private Prayer

Here the Encyclical calls atten-

tion to a number of errors that have been current recently in regard to the Mystical Body. The relations existing between Jesus Christ and the faithful have been confused even to a point approaching heresy. A false mysticism, which apparently would unite us to Christ substantially and divinize us in Him, is a kind of quietism which eliminates Christian activity and zeal as though there was nothing for the creature to do in the matter of salvation.

There has been a certain disapproval of frequent Communion, as though the Sacrament of Penance was helpful only to a soul in mortal sin. Recently, Pope Pius XII pointed out, there is noticeable a liturgical movement, not wholly sound, that denies the value of private prayer and gives value only to the liturgical and common prayers of the Church. Finally there is a tendency to see in Jesus Christ only a mediator and intercessor and to forget that He is also the Supreme Judge and the True God and that, consequently, our prayers may and should be directed not only to the Father but also to Our Divine Redeemer.

The concluding part of the Encyclical affirms the duty to love the Church, not in its primary divine elements alone but in its members, and with a love that finds expression in deeds, that excludes to one, neither existing nor those outside the Church, nor our enemies and persecutors.

The Supreme Pontiff makes an earnest appeal that all be united within the true Church of Jesus Christ, without distinction as to race, rejecting the idolatry of nationalism, with a keen sense of that responsibility which everyone should have before the tribunal of Jesus Christ, Our Saviour and the Supreme Judge.

With special emphasis, then, the Supreme Pontiff inculcates that love so accorded in our day for forsaken little ones, the sick poor, the outcast.

The Encyclical, going back to the letters of Leo XIII, Social Conditions and Christian Duty, and developing their teaching according to the needs of today, draws a striking picture of the Mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church in which all men are summoned, not only to attain eternal salvation but more than that to cooperate with Christ in the salvation of the world.

If refusal to recognize revelation and God's law has led to the present pass, where the whole world seems threatened with destruction, the inspiring teaching of Encyclical calls man back to the inviolable law of Christian life and progress in the face of the hostility and calamities that strike at the Church, resembling always more and more the persecution carried on against Jesus Christ.

Key To National Progress Found In Religious Faith Says President Of Peru

LIMA, Peru.—"Religious faith was always the safe guarantee of nations and key to their progress. This is witnessed by history and wisdom accumulated during twenty centuries."

These were the words of Dr. Manuel Prado, President of Peru, when he thanked the Most Rev. Fernando Cento, Apostolic Nuncio, for the reception offered in his honor.

Paying tribute to the part that the Cross has played in forging a new culture in America, he said: "Under the symbols of Christianity our universities were borne and in them the generations of our hemisphere were educated. Untroubled priests were in our heroic days soldiers of liberty, martyrs for their growing country, defenders of the new republics."

The Apostolic Nuncio, thanking the President in the name of the Peruvian clergy for the many benefits shown the Church during his administration, stressed his exemplary Catholic way of living. Above all he eulogized the two constitutional reforms brought in by President Prado, concerning the election of bishops and the conclusion of a Concordat with the Holy See.

President Prado in his reply

Navy Duty Calls

DEPERE, Wis.—The Rev. Thomas G. Fox, athletic director at St. Norbert's College here, has been commissioned in the Navy chaplain corps and has been ordered to the training school at William and Mary College.

Deny Group of German Franciscans Have Been Seized In Argentine

RIO DE JANEIRO, (NC)—There is no information available here to justify the assertion that a "group" of German Franciscan monks of Cairu have been arrested, charged with espionage. So far as is known here charges have been lodged against only one Franciscan.

Frel Alexis (Brother Alexis), a German-born Franciscan of Cairu, was arrested last year and was held for five weeks, but was released at the end of that time for a lack of evidence. The present proceedings referred to in the press reports are taking place in Bahia and were initiated by a private individual whose responsibility in the matter is unknown. The complaint involves officials and other civilians of local importance in Cairu.

A secular press report printed in the United States said a "group" of German Franciscan monks of Cairu and several municipal officials in that place were on trial before the War National Security Court, charged with espionage and believed responsible for the sinking of several Brazilian ships prior to that country's entry into the war.

Heads Schools

NEW ORLEANS.—The Rev. Henry C. Bejou, recently assistant pastor at St. Charles' Church, Lafourche, La., has been appointed Superintendent of Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, by the Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel.