

Military Targets Only, Aimed At Say Witnesses

Eyewitness accounts of the historic bombing of Rome by three war correspondents who flew in American bombers to cover the event for the great American news associations all emphasize that only military objectives were attacked. The Vatican, residence of the Holy Father, and other Christian shrines within a two-mile radius were carefully avoided.

Richard Treaskis of the International News Service saw a column of smoke climbing from the city of Rome while his plane was still 20 to 30 miles at sea. He said planes carried maps on which churches were circled, and crews were warned that these buildings "must on no account be damaged."

Richard McMillan of the United Press specifically testified that American bombs hit only on military targets.

Survey Damage

Joseph Morton of the Associated Press had the best chance to survey the damage, because he flew with the last wave of planes attacking the Eternal City. Morton reported that he saw fires from three military targets, none of them within a four-mile radius of Vatican City.

Reactions from the Rome said Richard McMillan of the United Press gave this eyewitness testimony:

"Extraordinary precautions were taken to ensure that no religious or cultural institutions were damaged in the raid."

"The targets were picked to make certain that no religious or cultural monuments in Vatican

City or Rome itself should be touched, and I testify that our bombs hit as they were intended to on their military targets."

Another eyewitness, Richard Treaskis, International News Service correspondent, who was over Rome aboard one of the U. S. Flying Fortress bombers, made this report:

"The area, four miles from Vatican City, was as definitely segregated for our bombardiers as if it had been set aside by a steel wall reaching from our planes to the ground."

Associated Press eyewitness Joseph Morton, went in over Rome at the lowly height of 10,000 feet in an American Marauder. Morton was with the last wave of attacking planes, and his Marauder stayed over Rome long enough to take a good look at what had happened. On returning from the raid Morton declared:

"If the Axis can produce proof that our bombers destroyed anything but military objectives, I shall be very surprised."

"On our maps marked not to be bombed at any cost were such points as Vatican City, St. Maria Maggiore, St. Paul Basilica, the Ancient Forum, the Coliseum, the National Museum and the Michelangelo Monument."

"They were marked as not to be bombed and they weren't."

Aerial Bombs Peril Papal Tomb In Rome

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tial walls of this funeral crypt of Pius IX are found the coats of arms of the Catholic dioceses throughout the world that contributed to its adornment.

Catholics of Rochester diocese will be interested to know that the coat of arms of Bishop Bernard McQuaid, first bishop of this diocese, can be found on the walls of Pius IX's funeral crypt in the now bombed Basilica of San Lorenzo.

Quietly Transferred

Not only in life but also in death Pius IX is a man of sorrow. At midnight, July 12, 1891, the mortal remains of Pius IX were transferred without pomp or ceremony from St. Peter's to San Lorenzo's outside the walls. Alongside the bier followed several thousand persons on foot with lighted candles reciting the Rosary and other prayers.

On reaching the famous Bridge of San Angelo the funeral cortege was suddenly attacked by some 300 hundred ruffians, including Freemasons and Carbonari, with the avowed intention of soiling the body and casting it into the Tiber. The enemies of the Pope, however, were beaten off by the faithful members of the cortege and his body arrived safely at San Lorenzo's.

The pontificate of Pius IX was filled with achievements most significant for the Catholic world. Under his direction the North American College, a seminary for American students, was established in Rome. Archbishop McQuaid of New York became the first cardinal of that great metropolis. Just before Christmas of 1854 the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was solemnly defined by Pius IX as a truth of Catholic Faith.

Bishop McQuaid Present

Most prominent, perhaps, of all his achievements was his summoning in 1868 of the General Council of all Catholic bishops at the Vatican. This Vatican Council, the last great council in the history of the Church, was prematurely suspended because of war in Europe, but not before it had declared the Catholic doctrine of Papal Infallibility. Bishop McQuaid, founder of the Diocese of Rochester, was a member of the Vatican Council.

There is an interesting anecdote associated with the revolution which overthrew the Papal States

and established what is now the Modern Kingdom of Italy. Pius IX related it himself at the time to some diplomats:

"Only yesterday I received a communication from the young men of the American College, begging, I should say demanding, permission to arm themselves and to constitute themselves the defenders of my person. Though there are few in Rome in whose hands I should feel more secure than in the hands of these young Americans, I declined their offer with generous thanks."

Sadly enough the heartbroken Pius IX never dreamed that one day Americans, unintentionally of course, would come through the blue skies of Rome to disrupt his well earned sleep of death.

Tragedies Recalled

The bombing of San Lorenzo's is not the first time that tragedy has struck this fourth century shrine. Because of the riches bestowed upon it by many Popes, it often tempted the rapacity of invading armies. In 455 it was plundered by Genseric and his Vandals and in 688 by the Lombards. After this second desecration the church was left to fall to ruin, until restored by Pope Paganus II in 678.

San Lorenzo's is also rich in historic interest. In the fourth century, Pope St. Damasus held a council in the Basilica against the heretic Apollinaris, at which the famed St. Jerome was present. Here, too, the eloquent Pope St. Gregory the Great delivered several sermons. St. Frances of Rome and St. Bridget of Sweden, with her daughter, St. Catherine, are known to have been devotees of this Basilica.

The real attraction of Catholic people down through the centuries for San Lorenzo's is because this Basilica contains the bodies of St. Lawrence, early Christian martyr, and St. Stephen, first martyr of the Church, whose death is recounted in the New Testament.

Four-Star Mothers

Los Angeles—Two mothers, each of whom have four sons in the Armed forces were among 47 honored by the Gaelic Association of Southern California here. They were presented with medals specially blessed by the Most Rev. John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles, at a Communion Mass for the safety of their sons. They are Mrs. Albert Wehrly and Mrs. Michael Regan.

THE POPE'S SOLICITUDE FOR WAR SUFFERERS

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

THE VATICAN CITY NEWSPAPER, L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, seldom seen in this country since the war began, devotes the entire first page of its June 3 issue to the reply of the Holy Father to the Sacred College of Cardinals on the observance of his name day. It is headed: "Important Activity of the Supreme Pontiff for the sufferings of war and his invocation for the return of true peace to the world."



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Urges Diocesans Heed War Relief Appeal In Collection Set Sunday

"Thank God, we have not had the destructive attacks on our land which have made others beg for our help. Our consistent generosity to those who suffer may insure a divine protection for our beloved country and homes."

Air Raid Moral Risk Declares Abp. Mooney

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Cathedral: the agencies of his world-wide spiritual administration are not concentrated in the Vatican but scattered throughout the city of Rome which for centuries was his city as well as his See: the shrines of Christian Rome are his special care. The historic monuments of ancient Rome, the treasures of art which make almost every street a museum have come down to us through the custody of his predecessors.

"He has pleaded insistently for the preservation of this unique heritage from the dangers of war. Millions have prayed that his plea would prevail. His plea was flagrantly disregarded by those who made the environs of Rome an apparently safe haven. It has, indeed, been literally respected in the detailed instructions which governed the precision bombing of military objectives in the immediate vicinity of the Eternal City."

"But one shudders to think of the moral risks which have been taken. This war will not be won merely on land or sea or in the air; it must be won in the hearts and minds of men. A stray bomb released by mistake over Rome may do moral harm to our cause that far outweighs the military value of the most accurate destruction of enemy supplies."

"May we not hope, at least that having shown the inefficiency of enemy strategy in hiding supplies under the cover of sanctity and culture, we will not subject to further risk the moral health that distinguishes and empowers our cause?"

Oldest Sodality

St. Louis—Young Men's Sodality at St. Francis Xavier Church, parochial arm of St. Louis University here, was the first Sodality in the Mississippi Valley, according to records at the University. It was organized in 1848 by the Rev. Arnold Damen, S.J., who organized a Young Ladies' Sodality the following year.

This is the appeal of His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Keane, for generous response to the collection in Rochester Diocese, Sunday, July 25, for the American Bishops' War Emergency and Relief. (Bishop Keane's letter appears on page 1).

Demands for succor in war-torn countries is mounting. This week, in a Lisbon dispatch of the N. C. W. C. News Service comes word that relief for the starving people of Greece is a matter of grave concern for His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

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Of more than \$800,000 disbursed by the Holy See last year for the Bishops' War Emergency and Relief Committee in countries where American relief agencies are unable to function, some \$25,000 was allocated for relief work in Greece. The total amount distributed last year by Catholics of the United States, through this Committee headed by the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and chairman of the N.C.W.C. Administrative Committee, to relieve the sufferings of war victims, was \$1,322,483.

Of the total amount, \$643,842.33 was disbursed by our Holy Father out of two allotments made by the Bishops' Committee. The latest, amounting to \$175,000, included sums notably for relief among the Croats and Slovaks; for relief work in Greece; for Polish refugees in Russia; for aid in the Netherlands, for French peasants and for relief work among refugees in Europe in general.

Assistance for the distressed in Belgium was included in the American Catholics' generous giving, \$10,000 for relief of air raid victims in Malta were sent. Sums for relief in Lithuania, and for children in England were included. Prisoners of war were aided to the extent of \$33,000. There was a substantial allotment made for Czech refugees in France.

One of the many activities covered by the Bishops' Relief Committee, is financial assistance for the Montezuma Seminary on the U. S. Mexican border, where young men are trained for the Holy Priesthood in Mexico. This outstanding Good-Neighbor endeavor was founded by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to train these young men who cannot be so educated in their homeland because of Mexican laws.

The Bishops' Relief Committee will continue to support Catholic organizations serving American troops abroad as it has done in the past to the extent of donations re-

ceived. Catholic Welfare Organization in Australia, the American Catholic Welfare Committee in Great Britain, and similar organizations in Northern Ireland, Africa, the Middle East and India find their resources insufficient to care for the extraordinary services occasioned by the presence of American servicemen among them.

Financial support of the Chaplains' Aid Association and the Military Ordinance is included in the American Bishops' Relief program.

All monies received are disbursed by the Bishops' Committee to agencies whose competence and integrity are beyond question. The distribution is made mainly through the Holy See which, as a neutral agent, is able to serve the distressed populations of occupied countries and our prisoners of war in Europe and Asia where it is impossible for most agencies to penetrate.

Other funds are distributed through the established Catholic charity channels in other countries.

Sacrifice for other members of the Mystical Body of Christ is called for in this one collection for the many appeals being received from literally all parts of the world. Bishop Keane in his letter sounds the keynote for this generous giving. Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester will respond to the utmost to succor those in need through the ravages of an unprecedented and total war.

Report Pope Refused Audience To British Envoy Branded False

VATICAN CITY.—(C.N.C. Radio)—Foreign press reports that His Holiness Pope Pius XII this week refused to grant an audience to the British Minister to the Holy See, because of the bombing of Cologne Cathedral, are declared in Vatican circles to be entirely without foundation.

The British Ambassador to the Holy See is Sir Francis D'Arcy Osborne, who recently returned to the Vatican after a leave of absence in England during which he was knighted by King George VI.

800 In Service

Montreal—More than 800 former students of Loyola College here have enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces. Of this number 18 already have made the supreme sacrifice.