

Catholics Head 3 Of Britain's Women War Groups

By GRACE CONWAY
LONDON.—Three of Great Britain's women's war services are headed by Catholic women.

First, the Women's Royal Naval Service—or the "Wrans," as Britain affectionately calls them. Their director is Mrs. Elvira Sybil Maria Laughton Mathews, mother of three children—two sons and a daughter.

A firm believer in women's rights, Mrs. Laughton Mathews was a prominent member of the suffrage movement just before World War I. The Girl Guide movement was one of her great interests, and while she was in Japan from 1925 to 1927, she was Commissioner of the British Girl Guides there. She is well qualified therefore to look after the large army of girls under her control, and their reputation stands high.

A Record in Quick Promotion

After the Senior Service comes the Army. The Auxiliary Territorial Service, known as the A. T. S., has for its director Chief Controller Leslie Violet Lucy Evelyn Whateley. Mrs. Whateley is married to a Squadron Leader in the Royal Air Force and she has one son, aged 21, who is an officer in India. It was the Munich crisis that decided her to join the A. T. S. in 1938. Then she had one pip on her shoulder, denoting the rank of second subaltern. In 1943 Britain's Secretary of State for War, Sir James Grigg, gave her the rank of Major General—which meant that in addition to the one pip she wore crossed swords beside them. This constitutes a record for quick promotion.

One of the most recent decisions she had to make was where her girls should be allowed to smoke, and where not. They may smoke in railway station canteens, buffets, or trains. They may not in streets, railway stations, buses, trams, or shops.

Freedom of Air for Women

Most spectacular and youngest of the Catholic women doing a director's war job is Pauline Gower, whose name is well known in the U. S. She has worked with Jacqueline Cochran in pioneering for women to fly planes across the Atlantic.

Pauline is head of Air Transport Auxiliary, the organization which ferries Britain's aircraft from factory to airfield. At the age of 18 she saved up to pay for her own flying lessons.

By 1935 Pauline had carried 16,000 passengers without mishap. By 1937 she was saying that in the event of a war, women could do the ferrying of planes between factory and air-base. She wasn't taken seriously at first, but in December, 1939, Britain's Air Ministry decided that women could ferry light training craft. In 1940 they were flying 350 m.p.h. Hurricanes and later came heavy bombers! Pauline was in charge, starting with eight girl pilots. Later she had Dutch, Czech, Polish, Spanish, Danish and Chinese girls under her command. In 1942 they were joined by girl pilots from the U. S.

Isn't it sad for a bride to discover that her husband is as tight as the marriage knot?—The Messenger.

Thinking of Getting Married?

(The following good advice is quoted out by Carl Joseph J. Sullivan, Rochester Chapter, in his *Comp. Lincea post ballatis, the Padre's Handbook*.)

Keep thinking.
Add praying, double portion.
Mix well and pour into deep dish in the back of your mind and allow to set for two years.
Serve after fully set and when reasonably convenient for all guests but especially for the host (I. e. YOU).

We've said it before and we say it again: "STOP—but if you insist . . . it's your funeral. Come in and we'll give you a nice funeral."

Just in the past week we have run into a couple more cases of fellows who find themselves, as they think in the middle. The girl friend back home is threatening or announcing that she's going to get on a train and come for the wedding.

The boys know as well as anyone else does that the girls are their girl friends.

But the boys are afraid of losing the girl they love. If it's as precarious as that, it seems to us that it would be better to lose now by a break-up than a few years from now by a blow-up. Now it might mean a little, or even a lot of heart ache. In the future it may mean the loss of hearts, minds, souls—several of them.

Law Barring Priests' Election to Assembly Hit in San Salvadore

SAN SALVADOR.—The Salvadorean press is backing the protest of Catholics against the "anti-democratic limitation" which bars priests from election to the Constituent Assembly. Formal protests were made by the clergy and by Catholic Action.

A decree signed by the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Powers on July 11 stated that deputies to the Assembly must be "Salvadorean by birth, older than 25 years, of secular status and of notable competency and honorability."

"The clergy is one of the most important sectors of the country . . . realizing great works in the moral and social order," La Tribuna, semi-weekly of Jacuapa says. "The clergy ought to participate in the Constituent Assembly so that the principles of the Church might be expounded." In another issue it spoke of "the actuation of our valiant priests who brought words of faith and hope to the nation in its fight against tyranny" and added that "at this time of profound social transformations, the voice of the representatives of the Church has the right to be heard and respected."

El Diario de Hoy, the Capital's morning daily, pays tribute to the worthiness of "our priests who form an illustrious class" and says that "any priest in the Assembly would be a man who has renounced temporal goods and contracted with Christ a pact of unlimited charity, as compared with the feebleness of men and the precariousness and instability of human laws."

The formal message from the clergy protested the "odious and anti-democratic restrictions" of the decree which "unjustly deprive the clergy of their rights as citizens."

A reply, addressed to Catholic Action and signed by President Andres B. Mendez, said that "the matter to which you refer will be considered opportunely by the three Powers of the State."

FROM THE FIGHTING FRONTS

(Continued from Page 1)

brothers, John and George, are serving overseas.

Sgt. Jerome (Jerry) Wille, 23, U. S. Infantry, has been missing in action since July 13, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Wille, 1333 Ridge Rd. E., have learned. A former student at Our Lady of Victory and Irondequoit High schools, Sergeant Wille was a gas station attendant before he entered the Army in September, 1940. Overseas since last November, he was stationed in Ireland before going to France.

Staff Sgt. Peter George Weber, 22, assistant radio operator and gunner on a bomber, has been missing over Romania since July 22, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Weber, 1894 Mansfield Rd., Ogden, have learned. A former student at St. John's School, Sergeant Weber was inducted in November, 1942, and went overseas late in February. His brother, Sgt. Joseph J., is at Camp Howie, Tex.

Pfc Christopher Ardella, 33, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ardella, 17 Philander St., is missing in action in France since July 27, his wife, Mrs. Flora Ardella, has been informed by the War Department. Graduated from Mt. Carmel School, Private Ardella has been in the Army since November, 1932. Before going overseas with the Infantry, he trained in California.

What To-Do With a Tiger

What to do with a tiger when you catch him?

Father Gordon Fritz, a Maryknoller from Newport, Minn., and now in the jungles of Bolivia, gives the answer in a letter just received here. He writes: "One night last week I had my deep study of Colliers interrupted with some wild shouting from across the campus. A tiger had come into the village and attacked a pig in an outlying pen."

"By the time we got there the tiger had gone. The pig lay bleeding . . . bitten, as always in the head. I posted the men to watch for his return and went back to my reading. Within a half hour another hue and cry was raised. This time one of the men came rushing in and yelled 'Padre! The tiger! The tiger! He's in your pig pen.' I moved my chair in a hurry."

"I seized up my gun and flashlight and bolted out the back door. But even before I covered the fifty yards the other men were there and all shooting. The tiger had been wounded and he was headed right for me. He was feeling a little sick, thank the Lord, so I more or less leisurely gave him the last shot from about four feet away."

"He was not much of a tiger (a little under six feet) but we were glad to get him as he killed animals here before. He had killed a small pig in my pen, and I had pork for breakfast. The Indians skinned the tiger and then roared and ate him. It looked good, but I stuck to pork!"

The aim of all of us in life is happiness, but too many of us aim so high we miss it.—The Tablet.


Anti-Persecution Group Plans National Education Campaign

WASHINGTON.—A campaign of education in all sections of the country is the plan of the National Committee Against Persecution, a newly formed group composed of 250 American of almost every State. Mass meetings will be held in important cities to warn anti-

persecution in the United States. According to the chairman of the committee, Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy.

Other members of the committee include the Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago; the Rev. Edward A. Conroy, S. J., the Rev. George H. Ford, of Columbia University; the Rev. John J. Egan, S. J., of St. Ignace; James A. Connelley, and Jeremiah T. Mahoney.

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