

Yanks Mark Easter In Holyland, Europe

Jerusalem—(NC)—Hundreds of American soldiers mingled as Easter pilgrims among the colorful Oriental crowds that attended the great ceremonies just held in this the city commemorative of the first Holy Week.

Owing to the serious illness of His Beatitude Louis Barbinus, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Rev. Albert Gory, O.P.M., Custodian of the Holy Land, presided at the Mass on Palm Sunday. Bishop Auguste M. Piroz, Vicar Apostolic of the Dead Sea, officiated at the Masses on the Holy Sepulchre during the rest of the Holy Week services and on Easter.

The English language sermon at the Calvary burial ceremony on Good Friday was preached by the Rev. Bonaventure Simon, O.F.M., an American Franciscan.

Although the Jewish feast of Passover coincided with Holy Thursday, the crowds seen in the City of Jerusalem were mostly Catholic because of the intensity of the Greek Easter, which falls this year on May 6.

Among the Americans present in Jerusalem for the Holy Week services were Representative Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois and Commander John E. Young, U.S.N.R., well known radio figure who formerly announced the Catholic Hour radio broadcast in the United States.

Cologne—(NC)—Twenty-five American soldiers and three ambulance girls of the Red Cross took part on Easter Sunday in the first American service held in the Cathedral of Cologne, while artillery and machine-gun fire was reverberating across the Rhine.

The Americans stood near the main altar in the center of the nave in the huge edifice, which has been "off limits" for all military personnel and civilians during the past two weeks because of renewed activity in this battle zone. The brief service consisted of a homily by Father Knob and singing accompanied by the organ. The security measure the public will not admit.

German artillery on the east bank of the Rhine continues to fire into the Cathedral area and only yesterday one of the twin spires was hit by a shell, fortunately without causing much damage.

It was in this weird atmosphere that Easter service was held while otherwise on Cathedral Square could clearly see the shells bursting all around. Yet enemy activity could not interfere with the American church service.

Nazi-Evicted Monks To Return To Abbey

Clermont, Luxembourg—(NC)—The Benedictine Fathers of this Abbey are about to return to their abode, their earlier one while they were imposed upon them early in 1941 by the Nazi regime.

The Community of Clermont, which traces its history to the ninth century, numbered 100 members before the Nazis came in 1940, and remained about 200 members when it was permanently dissolved by the Gestapo on January 18, 1941. The Germans had plans to convert the building into a Hitler Youth training school. To put these needs they accepted the abdication of all its ecclesiastical rights, and the community was disbanded.

By Dr. Max Jordan
Aachen—(NC)—Dr. Franz Oppenhoff, Mayor of this city under the American Military Government, who was killed on Passion Sunday by a Nazi murder gang parachuted near

Bon in order "to get him," was one of the outstanding Catholic leaders of Aachen.

He fell victim to the same forces that murdered the Catholic leader, Mathias Erzberger, about 24 years ago. These forces are now re-emerging as the most serious danger to the peaceful reconstruction of Europe, once the Hitler regime has been beaten down.

When the American Military Government took over the administration of this city, Dr. Oppenhoff, a 58-year-old lawyer who had recently represented Weimar in the election to the Reichstag, was chosen as Mayor. He was known to be a preceding Catholic who had always taken a deep interest in social welfare problems.

Despite serious misgivings, Dr. Oppenhoff accepted the assignment to restore some semblance of order out of the chaos left behind by the Nazis. "I am one of them," he said on the evening before he was killed.

"The Catholic Hour," broadcast by NBC under auspices of the National Council of Catholic Men, is directed by William Sweeny, John O'Connell in association.

1916, Man Bid Good-Bye in Baltimore Meet Again in China 25 Years Later

Washington, China—(NC)—Exactly 25 years ago James McNamee, a missionary at the time, left Baltimore, returning to his native land to meet again with his old associates.

McNamee, 66, a native of New Haven, Conn., was born in 1879. He studied at the University of Notre Dame and the Seminary of St. Paul, and then taught in the schools of the Diocese of Newark, N.J., before entering the seminary.

After graduation from the seminary he became a teacher in the schools of Newark, and then entered the Foreign Missions Seminary of the Society of the Precious Blood.

He was ordained a priest in 1905 and served in the Foreign Missions of the Precious Blood until 1916, when he returned to the United States.

Fall of Fulda Recalls Bishops' Warnings

"At the Tomb of St. Boniface, Apostle of the Germans, in Fulda."

This phrase is associated in the public mind with the Joint Pastoral issued annually by the German Hierarchy following the Fulda Conference — Pastoral which, since 1932, have had special meaning for the world.

This meaning grew in importance as the Nazi movement waxed stronger in Germany and penetrated into neighboring countries until finally the day came when the text of the Fulda Pastoral had to be concealed temporarily and then transmitted by hand to German pastors, when only a censored version was released to the outer world by Nazi censors, and the real text had to be smuggled across the Reich's borders.

As this is written the Allied armies are fighting in Fulda. Nazi attempts to suppress the Fulda Pastoral helped to restore to Fulda some of its ancient prestige, when its shrine was the national sanctuary for all Germany and its Abbey the nursery of German civilization and learning.

Marines of Honor

Fulda grew up around the Abbey founded by St. Boniface in 744 to facilitate missionary work in the north. St. Boniface asked that his mortal remains be laid to rest there.

Much could be written about the glories and vicissitudes of Fulda Abbey, but its greatest significance in the present chapter of world history is what the German Hierarchy, there assembled, proclaimed their Pastoral during the last 12 years.

Late in January, 1933, Adolf Hitler and his national socialist party came into power in Germany. The following June, the Episcopal Conference met at Fulda and issued a Pastoral which said, in part:

"We German Catholics have no need of a new attitude towards State and Nation, but only to pursue that which we recognize and have always performed as our natural and Christian duty. While we love our race and country, we never forget the ties that bind us to other nations and national families, and we think of the great world-wide Kingdom of God on earth, which Our Saviour has destined to include all men without distinction as to language or time, nation or race."

Prayed State Infringements.

The Pastors of the German bishops in the following year was a dignified but forceful protest against State Infringements upon the freedom of the Church, and a stern condemnation of "false prophets abroad in our Fatherland who deny the divinity of Christ."

As Nazi encroachments and persecutions increased, the German Hierarchy found that an annual Conference no longer sufficed for administering affairs of the Church in Germany. Special sessions were held at Fulda, and when that was not feasible, Joint Pastors nevertheless were issued and dealt with specific subjects.

In 1936 two Pastors were released following an extraordinary Fulda Conference; one on Christian marriage and the other dealing with the current anti-Christian campaign in Germany.

In June of that year the Bishops addressed a Joint Pastoral to youth.

Called by Navy



CHAPLAIN Thomas Reddington of the U.S. Navy who will leave this week for training at William and Mary College Chaplain's School is a brother of Navy Chaplain John F. Reddington. The newest Chaplain has sailed as midshipman at Newark and Astoria. His home is in Rochester. (Emminger photo)

Chaplain Aids Fallen Marines On Iwo Jima

Chaplain Daniel Munday, former director of the Niagara University, Rochester Extension, was off the beach of Iwo Jima "on D-Day" at H-Hour" when the U.S. Marines began their historic seige of the Japanese homeland island, according to word received here this week.

Attached to a Medical Battalion of the Third Marine Division, Chaplain Munday led a "ring-side seat" during the first days of the bloodiest battle in Marine history.

From his transport off shore, the Chaplain could see the battle progress and the waves of Marines advancing up the sandy terraces to Airfield No. 1.

Biggest thrill for the Chaplain was the night that an American cruiser came in close to Mt. Suribachi, and with the aid of a searchlight fired round after round at point blank range into the side of old "Hot Potato," as the Marines dubbed the enemy bastion.

On D-Day Mrs. A. Father Munday landed on Iwo and went to work immediately at an extraction station for the wounded which had been established near the beach.

The chaplain, the Chaplain explained, were picked up on the front lines and brought back by litter bearers to first aid stations where battle dressings, plasma and even whole blood were administered.

The Iwo Jima battle was the first Pacific operation where "whole blood" was immediately informed into casualties. The blood in this case was obtained from donors on the West Coast, loaded and flown out to the scene of battle.

At his extraction post on the beach Father Munday worked fast because the wounded were being loaded on landing craft and taken out to hospital ships and transports ashore.

As the casualties arrived the Chaplain checked them, gave absolution to the Catholics and then turned them over to the medical corps.

All hospitals, laboratories and nursing posts on Iwo, Chaplain Munday, were represented by the soldiers of relief and gratitude shown on the faces of the boys when they found a Catholic Chaplain on hand to take care of them.

Buffalo Priest Dies