

# Now It Can be Told Belgium's Secret Army Employed Trojan Horse Plan on Enemy

"King Solomon has put on his big wooden shoes!" This was the cryptic message broadcast in French by the London radio on June 8, 1945—two days after D-Day. It is classified all Belgium and set into full operation the "Trojan Horse Plan" of Belgium's Secret Army under the famous and almost mythical General Eisenhower.

In the months that followed, this Secret Army, the largest and most efficient of all Belgium's underground groups, worked steadily and heroically to help the Allies by every means which their close organization and their intimate knowledge of the country made possible.

Their particular task was to disrupt enemy transportation. General Eisenhower recognized their successful efforts in a letter to their Commander dated July 12, 1944, in which he declared his complete satisfaction with the Secret Army's work and acknowledged its considerable effect on the enemy's transportation system.

The Secret Army's success was due largely to its careful organization. The Army had its beginning in the fall of 1940, in an effort to keep the officers and men of the Belgian Army in contact with one another and to counteract Nazi propaganda. In 1942 it won official recognition from the Belgian Government in London.

Having its activities on the "Trojan Horse Plan" the Secret Army divided all Belgium into five zones, each zone being split into sectors and each sector in "refuges". These "refuges" were the local action centers.

In addition to this general scheme, the port of Antwerp had a special organization and two brigades of "mobile reserves" were always at the direct disposal of the Commander in Chief, "General Pygmalion". Only a very few people knew that he was Lieutenant General Pire of the Belgian Army.

The extent of the Secret Army's work is shown by the fact that almost half of all acts of sabotage committed against the Germans in Belgium were organized by it and that it lost approximately one thousand of its members in the fight against the invader—more than the total number of casualties in all other Resistance groups put together. The Germans themselves considered it the most dangerous of Belgium's underground organizations and the Secret Army prized a German report admitting this fact which fell into its hands.

When the signal for full-scale action came in June 1944, some 60,000 members of the Secret Army were mobilized. It had complete ambulance and chaplain service, in both of which certain Belgian priests covered themselves with glory.

Weapons and ammunition were, for the most part, dropped by parachute from Allied planes. In some parts of the country, particularly south of the Meuse River, this "parachute" work went with perfect efficiency. In others, such as East and West Flanders, unfavorable circumstances made it impossible and great and amazing work had to be done to transport these troops to the front.

In addition to the work of the Secret Army, the "Trojan Horse Plan" was also carried out by the "Secret Army of the Front" which was organized from German soldiers who had been captured by the Allies and were being held in concentration camps. These soldiers were organized into groups and were used to carry out various sabotage operations behind the enemy lines.

## G. I. Joe Raids the Ice-Box



Junior Weston Hathaway of Jacksonville, N. C., and Saller Edward J. Southworth, NA-1/6 of Newark, N. J., "raid the ice-box" of the USO Club, at Jacksonville, N. C., operated by the Women's Division of the National Catholic Community Service in preparation for a home cooked dinner. (NCWC).

## Chaplain, Home from Italy, Tells of Papal Audiences

Lieutenant John A. Reddington, chaplain of the United States Navy and former professor of St. Bernard's Seminary, has arrived in Rochester after almost two years of service in Italy.

Father Reddington returned to this country on a ship which sailed from Naples. After a short leave he will report for new duties at Camp Pendleton in California.

While in Italy he attended some of the audiences which Pope Pius XII has granted to the Allied servicemen since the liberation of Rome.

The reverent manner in which the soldiers crowded around the Holy Father was a heart-warming sight, the Chaplain stated.

The eagerness with which the men stretched out their hands in order to touch the Pope, he explained, made one feel that the Holy Father was a symbol of security to them.

The Pontiff's friendly manner, saintly presence, and mastery of languages, observed Father Reddington, made a profound impression on the fighting men who visited the Vatican.

The Holy Father even greeted the Jewish soldiers in Hebrew, he stated.

Father Reddington, who completed his studies for the priesthood and was ordained in Rome, reports that the people of the Eternal City, want to build a monument in honor of Pope Pius XII. The Romans believe that their city was spared from the ravages of war through the personal prestige of the Holy Father.

Father Reddington's brother, the Rev. Thomas M. Reddington, also joined the Navy Chaplain's Corps last March.

Both chaplains are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Reddington, Alliance Avenue, Rochester.

## North Italian Hierarchy Resisted Nazis

By HELEN HIETT  
Venice — (RNS) — The Catholic hierarchy in northern Italy played a prominent part in the resistance movement it can definitely be stated after a tour of many cities where leading church authorities and officials of the various political parties were interviewed.

The cities visited were Bologna, Modena, Ferrara, Parma, Piacenza, Milan, Turin, Brescia, Verona, Padua, Vicenza, Treviso and Venice.

Cardinals, archbishops and bishops in many of these cities maintained good, and sometimes cordial, relations with Nazi-Fascist authorities as well as with Partisans and the underground National Liberation Committees.

However, this relationship explains why they were able to mediate between Partisans and Nazi-Fascists to spare cities from destruction in the final stages of the war.

Venice, for example, owes the preservation of her treasures to the intervention of Adolfo Cardinal Piazza who persuaded the Germans to dismount their cannon and prevailed on Partisans to allow the Germans to withdraw with their arms.

The extent of the Church's help to Partisans cannot yet be told. It was deliberately played down so as not to provoke further Fascist reprisals.

Enough is known already, however, to permit the prediction that when the full story of the Church's action in northern Italy during the last eighteen months is written, it will do much to counterbalance accusations against the Church of collaborating with Mussolini's regime.

One example of resistance activity was the "notification" published secretly on April 20, 1944, by the episcopal conference of the Triveneta region and signed by the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, the archbishops of Udine and Gorizia, and the bishops of Verona, Treviso, Trieste, Flume, Vicenza, Belluno, and other dioceses.

The statement sharply condemned those few priests who had violated ecclesiastical discipline by engaging in political propaganda, condemned all who collaborated with Fascism's notorious "religious" weekly, *Crocata Italiana*, and forbade Catholics to read any literature or propaganda of that sort, which "constitutes a grave peril for the integrity of the Catholic faith."

The document also condemned Nazi-Fascist reprisals, deportations, and unprovoked murders of civilians by the Nazis. It was widely circulated through underground sources and was read in every diocese of northeast Italy.

## Presidential Aide



Edward O. McKim, of Omaha, who has been appointed chief administrative assistant to President Harry S. Truman, born in Evansville, Ind. Mr. McKim is a graduate of the Christian Brothers De La Salle Academy and Rockhurst College, Kansas City. He is a veteran of World War I and is active in the Laymen's Retreat Association. Harris & Ewing photo. (NCWC).

## Mission Day Prayers Asked For the Sick

Approximately 7,000 cards with an indulgence prayer for the Mission Sunday of the Sick have been sent to hospital chaplains and parish priests of the diocese by the Rev. John S. Randall, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Asking that these cards be distributed among the sick and infirm, Father Randall announces that Pentecost Sunday (May 20) is also known throughout the Catholic world as Mission Sunday of the Sick.

On this day the sick are asked to offer their sufferings in union with the sufferings of the Crucified Saviour for the conversion of unbelievers.

Fourteen years ago an appeal was addressed to the suffering people of the world to observe the Feast of Pentecost as Mission Sunday of the Sick. The appeal urged them to offer their pain, on that day, in union with the sufferings of the Divine Victim of Calvary, for the intentions of the Holy Father, the spread of the Kingdom of Christ among unbelievers, for Catholic missions and missionaries and for the reunion of all Christians.

In commenting on the diocesan observance of Mission Sunday of the Sick, the Rev. John S. Randall, Mission Director, said: "We deem the sufferings of our sick, borne with patient resignation and offered for the conversion of unbelievers, as precious coin with which to purchase souls. It is true the missionaries cannot carry the message of the Gospel to the far corners of the earth without material assistance, but neither can they succeed in their mission without the grace of God won through prayer in their behalf. We therefore extend an earnest invitation to our sick to participate in this mission apostolate on Mission Sunday."

## Gene Tunney Hails Front Line Chaplains

Melbourne — (NC) — Deep tribute to the work of front-line chaplains was paid by Commander Gene Tunney of the United States Navy in an interview with *The Catholic Weekly*, published in Sydney.

"I cannot find words," Commander Tunney is quoted as saying, "to express my admiration of these men. Pin-up girls simply don't count as morale builders when shells and bombs are falling. I know of no finer influence in the front lines than that brought there by the chaplains."

## American Girl, Three Years in German Concentration Camp, Tells of Atrocities

Washington — (NC) — The dramatic story of imprisonment and escape from Nazi concentration camp for women at Ravensbruck, Germany, was told by Albin Kolodziejczak, of Bayonne, N. J., on a visit to the Polish Embassy here.

Miss Kolodziejczak, although an American citizen, was arrested by the Gestapo, when she visited her parents in Germany in 1940, on suspicion that her relatives were engaged in anti-Nazi activities. In the intervening years she has been interned not only at Ravensbruck, but at concentration camps in Poland and France. In fact, Miss Kolodziejczak tells of "spending time" in actually seven prisons, including Ravensbruck.

Miss Kolodziejczak said, "There were 12,000 women of all nationalities, among whom was General Charles De Gaulle's niece, but I was the only American."

Speaking of the three long years of captivity at Ravensbruck, Miss Kolodziejczak relates a horrifying tale of beatings, degradation, starvation and death.

"I have seen my fellow prisoners — women as old as 90 and little girls as young as five, starved, degraded and treated as beasts of burden," she declared. "I have seen devout women who had not lost faith in God punished severely when they were detected praying, and I have

seen girls called out of line to be shot for some 'infraction of the prison laws.' This occurred on 'execution day.' Miss Kolodziejczak explained, which was scheduled every six weeks.

"On that day," Miss Kolodziejczak reveals, "we all knew what was coming when they lined us up. As one of our names was called, she would step forward one pace, expressing no emotion whatsoever. Because none of us really regarded death as a misfortune after the terror we had experienced."

The women guards at Ravensbruck were more cruel than the men of the Gestapo, according to Miss Kolodziejczak. "They were savage, sadistic, stony and muscular," she said.