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Russians Arrest U. S. Priest

'Bravest Man I Ever Saw'



Described by one of the ship's senior officers as "the bravest man I ever saw," Navy Chaplain Joseph O'Callahan, of Boston, Mass., is shown, gloved hands pressed together, praying as he administered the last rites to a dying Catholic crewman aboard the burning Carrier Franklin. (U. S. Navy Photograph from International News Photos.)

Nation Hails Priest As Hero of Carrier

Washington — (NC) — In one of America's most brilliant sagas of the sea — the homecoming of the crippled U. S. Aircraft Carrier Franklin — a bespectacled and beloved 40-year-old Jesuit priest has been acclaimed one of the nation's outstanding heroes.

He is Lieut. Comdr. Joseph Timothy O'Callahan, who served as chaplain aboard the carrier. In peacetime Father O'Callahan was a teacher of mathematics. And now, the Navy Department states that a senior officer aboard the Carrier Franklin has described Father O'Callahan as "the bravest man I ever saw."

The 27,000-ton ship was oper-

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

The same press that brings us shocking reports from Nazidom also tells us the shocking things which happen in the democratic lands of America and England.

Alongside the accounts of atrocity in Nazi prisons we read accounts of shame — divorce, infanticide, matricide, murder, ect. — in American Society.

This week in England Anglican Bishop William E. Barnes uttered things which might be whispered only in the dark recesses of a Nazi lair.

The Bishop of Birmingham, as the Protestant churchman is popularly styled, publicly advocated euthanasia, or easy death, for defective children and madi-

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Secrecy Marks Trial for 'Assault' Religious Freedom Seen at Stake

The Rev. Leopold Braun, a New Bedford, Mass. priest who went to Russia in 1933 as proof to the people of the United States that the Soviet Union would respect the religious freedom of Americans, has been arrested and is already on trial in Moscow.

He has been brought before the Russian courts to answer charges that last October he assaulted a Soviet workman in the French embassy where the priest has lived since 1934.

Diplomats in Moscow believe that the assault charge is simply an excuse by the Politbureau to "hang" something on Father Braun in reprisal for his unsuccessful tests of the widely-publicized "religious freedom" policy of the Soviet Union.

The entire affair is shrouded in the deepest diplomatic secrecy. No American news service has carried the story. The Soviet Embassy at Washington has "no comment."

Although the State Department is reported to have asked Soviet permission for an official representative at the trial, the Department in Washington has no comment.

The Courier Journal can state these facts on the highest authority and points out that Constantine Brown, the reliable and well-informed columnist of the Washington Star is the only American newspaperman who has discussed this vital incident in print although Father Braun's arrest is reported to be widely-known in State Department circles.

While Father Braun, a priest of the Augustinian Order of the Assumption and former teacher at Assumption College in Worcester, does not enjoy diplomatic immunity and hence is subject to arrest he is highly regarded by the entire diplomatic corps in Moscow, according to Mr. Brown who reports:

"The presence of a Catholic clergyman . . . is said to have become so irksome to certain Soviet authorities, that, according to some reports, his (Father Braun's) name formed a topic of conversation between Premier Stalin and President Roosevelt at Yalta. Mr. Brown continues: "It appears Russian authorities suspected him of being the 'ear' of the Vatican in the Russian capital and that he was able by some devious way, to send to the Holy See reports which should not have been sent abroad. Whether these allegations are true or not, will unquestionably develop in the trial. But so long as the Kremlin considered the Vatican a 'friendly power,' Father Braun was toler-



Rev. Leopold Braun

ated by the Russian authorities.

"In recent months, however, diplomatic relations between Russia and the Vatican have deteriorated. Russian broadcasting stations have repeatedly denounced Pope Pius for what they described as a 'pro-Fascist' attitude, and these attacks are being continued.

"Moreover, it is reported that there was a 'slight verbal conflict' between the American clergyman and the Russian commissar for religious affairs.

"When it was announced from Moscow that freedom of religion had been fully reestablished in the Soviet Union, Father Braun is said to have called on the assistant commissar to ask whether under the new religious laws he could open a Sunday school in Moscow.

"The commissar informed him that this was against the U. S. S. R. constitution, which prohibits religious teachings in schools. But, he added, this does not mean any curtailment of the privileges which the Russian government intends to give the clergy. Among these he mentioned that the Catholic clergy in all parts under U. S. S. R.

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V-Bombs Destroy Antwerp Churches

Paris — (NC) — Several additional churches in Antwerp have been destroyed by the German V-bombs. St. Laurens Church in the new part of the city is a mass of ruin. However, the Cathedral and several churches in the old city are still intact.

During the V-bomb attacks it was dangerous for people to gather in churches, and the precept of attending Mass on Sunday was cancelled. Few availed themselves of this dispensation, however.

Reds Bar U. S. Diplomats From Eastern Europe

Washington — (INS.) — Laurence A. Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, is "taking a vacation" in New York, waiting for Soviet permission to enter the country to which he was appointed by President Roosevelt.

Though Czechoslovakia has now been liberated, American diplomats are not free to go there because Soviet occupying forces have not yet given clearance.

The State Department has no intention of protesting to Moscow unless the situation does not clear up in the next week or two.

It was pointed out that this is not the only instance where American officials have been prevented from entering or operating in countries within the Soviet sphere of influence. Similar diplomatic road-blocks have been encountered throughout the central and Eastern European area.

and in Bucharest, Capital of Romania, Washington has been permitted to have a "political representative." But State Department officials said these representatives have so little freedom of movement that "they might as well not be there."

No U. S. representation has been permitted in Vienna, Capital of Austria; Budapest, Capital of Hungary; or Warsaw, Capital of Poland.

Ambassador Richard C. Patterson has gone to Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, only to run headlong into trouble with Marshal Tito over occupation of Trieste and Carinthia.

Soviet explanation for delay in each case has been that "facilities are not ready for diplomats." The American view is that our diplomats are not asking for palaces or parties, but they want to be on the ground early, to insure that democratic ideas are carried out to the fur-

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