

Returns to Pacific Wars



Picture above is Chaplain John F. Woloch, a native of Auburn and veteran of the Midway battle who is back in the Pacific aboard an aircraft carrier. Father Woloch served as assistant at churches in Corning, Elmira and Rochester before entering the Navy.

**Airman Reunited with Wife
Whose Medal Saved His Life**

(By Staff Correspondent)
Auburn — Clarence E. Sanford, now a Major in the Air Corps, was reunited this week with his wife, Mrs. Margaret DeJager Sanford of this city, whose crucifix medal saved his life when his plane crashed into the Southwest Pacific early in 1942.

Sanford, who was promoted to the rank of major last August, was honorably discharged from service this week at Fort Dix with nearly four years of service and an unforgettable experience behind him.

The dramatic story of the young pilot's crash, his three mile swim and his miraculous escape from death at the hands of fierce Pacific island natives was reported at the time in a copyrighted story in the New York Herald Tribune.

Sanford, then a second lieutenant, was forced down into the sea three miles from an island near Australia. When he collapsed on the shore after an exhausting swim, the Australian was aroused by three savages, one of whom placed a spear to his breast demanding if he were a Jap.

Upon seeing the crucifix medal which he wore one of the natives asked, "Are you a Jesus man?" A convert, Sanford admitted that he was Catholic and thus insured his own safe conduct to Australia.

The strangest feature of the episode was revealed when it was learned that the island inhabitants came to that part of the island only once a week.

Mrs. Sanford, who is a graduate of Nazareth College, gave her husband the crucifix, a Miraculous Medal and St. Christopher Medal formed into a cross, when he was home the previous summer.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Sanford, reside in Fleming.

**Funeral Held
For Lake Victim**

Auburn — Edward Younis, 40, of Garrow Street, was drowned this week in Owasco Lake, 100 yards off Burr's Point, on the east side of the lake. It was the season's first drowning in Owasco Lake.

Mr. Younis was born in Syria and came to Auburn two years ago from Watertown. He is survived by his wife; two sons, Warner and Edward; one daughter, Carlene; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Amcen Younis, of Fulton; two brothers, George of Auburn and Habib of Fulton; three sisters, Mrs. John Salamy and Mrs. John Ellis of Tupper Lake and Miss Julia Younis of Fulton. Funeral services were held on Monday morning at St. Francis Church and burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Mr. Younis for a time was in the Army, serving from Sept. 1940, to February 1941, when he received an honorable discharge.

**Firemen in Service
Honored by Plaque**

Moravia — A plaque containing the names of 35 members of the Moravia Fire Department serving with the armed forces was dedicated in front of the fire house in Moravia. Rev. E. T. Dougherty, pastor of St. Patrick's Church and chaplain of the department opened the program with a prayer and address. Fire Chief W. Lewis Armstrong of Old Forge was the guest speaker and a concert was given by the Moravia band.



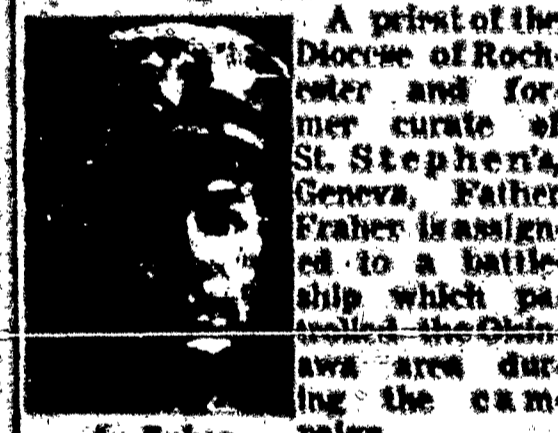
Major C. E. Sanford



Mrs. Sanford

**Chaplain Fraher Watches
Jap Attack on 'Franklin'**

The USS Franklin, famous Naval carrier ship which returned to the United States on its own power after Japanese planes had ravaged her, "was the greatest casualty of the Okinawa campaign," according to Lieutenant Leslie Fraher, USNR, who was aboard an exciting battleship when the last enemy plane tried to finish off the burning carrier.



A priest of the Diocese of Rochester and former curate of St. Stephen's, Geneva, Father Fraher is assigned to a battleship which patrolled the Okinawa area during the campaign. Describing the Franklin attack as a "terrible and tragic thing," Chaplain Fraher relates: "Our ship and a couple of others escorted her out of the battle area. Even then one of the Jap pilots came in for the kill. He didn't make it for either." "Our sick bay," writes the chaplain, "was filled with the

seriously wounded." The Franklin's own chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan, now hailed as one of the nation's outstanding heroes, was "surging the dead for two days."

Father Fraher reveals that before the Okinawa campaign he met Father O'Callahan at Pearl Harbor and had him aboard for dinner once. He was so anxious to get out here. He certainly covered himself with glory."

American carrier planes are a source of personal morale for Chaplain Fraher. "One day," he writes, "our unit of the fleet steamed north at full speed to engage a portion of the Jap fleet which was coming down from Kyushu to attack our forces on and around Okinawa. While still a hundred miles from them our planes took off and did a grand job. So complete was our plane attack that our surface forces had nothing to do but pick up the planes and come home. It does wonders for my morale to have those lads flying around overhead."

**Midway Chaplain Preaches
To the Lepers on Molokai**

Commander John F. Woloch, USNR, priest of the Diocese of Rochester and Catholic chaplain aboard the U.S.S. Bon Homme Richard, recently visited Pearl Harbor where he met "many lads, former parishioners, from

**Brothers Meet
In France**

Auburn — Pvt. Edward Tarby of Engelwood Avenue informed his family this week of his reunion with his brother, Corp. Walter. They met in Rouen, France.

Previously Walter was stationed in Germany after eleven months of battle. He is now believed to be on his way to the States. Edward has been stationed in France for some time with a Harbor Craft outfit.

The Tarby brothers also met Andrew Smutok of Cottage Street, Nic. Edwards and Corp. Walter are sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Tarby. They have two brothers in the service, S/Sgt. Joseph in India and Sgt. John in England. Russell, another brother, was recently honorably discharged from the Navy.

Auburn, Corning and Rochester."

At Pearl Harbor, Father Woloch also met Lieutenant Leslie Whalen and Lieutenant William Nolan, both Navy Chaplains from the Diocese of Rochester, and Commander Frederick P. Gehring, "the Guadalcanal Padre" and former senior Catholic chaplain of Sampson Naval Training Station.

On March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, Father Woloch was at the Island of Molokai where he celebrated Mass and gave benediction for the inmates of the world famous Molokai Leper Colony.

"It was a wonderful and thrilling experience," writes the Chaplain, "but a gruesome sight which I shall never forget."

"The Lepers," he adds, "have a beautiful choir and when I gave them a short talk I complimented them on their singing."

Father Woloch is a native of Auburn. He enlisted as a Navy Chaplain before Pearl Harbor and was on Midway Island when superior Japanese forces attacked but failed to wrest the outpost from its small group of American defenders.

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