

Missionary Tells Marine Outlook for the Church in Japan Is Very Bright

By SGT. DON A. LANDIS
U. S. Marine Corps

Fukuoka, Japan — (NC) — The future of Catholicism in Japan is brighter than at any time in history, according to a Sulpician priest recently released from an internment camp.

Father Henri Robillard, S. S., of Montreal, who expressed this optimism regarding post-war Japan, said the end of the war has de-emphasized the code of Bushido and now the trend may be toward the Christian principles of brotherly love, humility and charity.

The field of missionary work in Japan is vast and for the most part untouched, the 46-year-old priest said. He feels that defeat in Japan has brought about a desire for a more firm and unshakable faith. He says it is difficult for the people to reconcile their defeat with the pagan philosophy and doctrine which has been predominant in the Orient for centuries.

They are now groping toward a faith which is unaffected by

war, governments or politics, Father Robillard said, adding that seven hundred girls in a school near the occupation force headquarters have already voiced an eager request for catechism study as soon as possible.

He said the principal obstacle in the struggle of the Church to reach the masses, is the persistent Japanese attitude of mistrust and contempt of anything Occidental. Regardless of its all-inclusive doctrine, Catholicism is regarded by the average Japanese as a Western religion, the priest explained.

The Japanese firmly believe that Occidentals and Orientals are too distinct in every regard to share anything in common, including religion, Father Robil-

Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours are scheduled in the following churches of the Rochester Diocese:

Sunday, Nov. 11 — Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Theodore, Rochester; St. Mary, Elmira; Conesus; Elmira Heights; Mt. Read.
Friday, Nov. 10 — Naples.

lard said adding that he believes the solution lies in educating Japanese youths for entry into the priesthood.

At Fukuoka from 1937 to 1941, Father Robillard was a member of the faculty of the Preparatory School for the Grand Seminary in Tokyo. After the outbreak of war, he was interned by the Japanese and spent the next 45 months in three internment camps in Japan.

Report 'Greatly Exaggerated'

Burma Missioners Deny They Have Met Death

Washington — (NC) — A letter, from the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas Newman, La Salette Missionary, Prefect Apostolic of the Akyab Prefecture in Arakan, Burma, received here at the National Catholic Welfare Conference headquarters, says: "Since our release from internment I have heard that many stories were circulated, purporting to be true accounts of our deaths in various ways. I should like, as much as possible, to give our denial of these rumors."

The letter reports that Monsignor Newman and four missionary priests are safe and ready to go back to work at their Burma mission stations.

In September 1942, Monsignor Newman relates, the priests began the long trek over the Yoma Mountains in a convoy, and after a month of marching arrived at Rangoon. There they were released to the Bishop of Rangoon under house arrest, but later they were taken to an internment camp at Tavoy in Southern Burma.

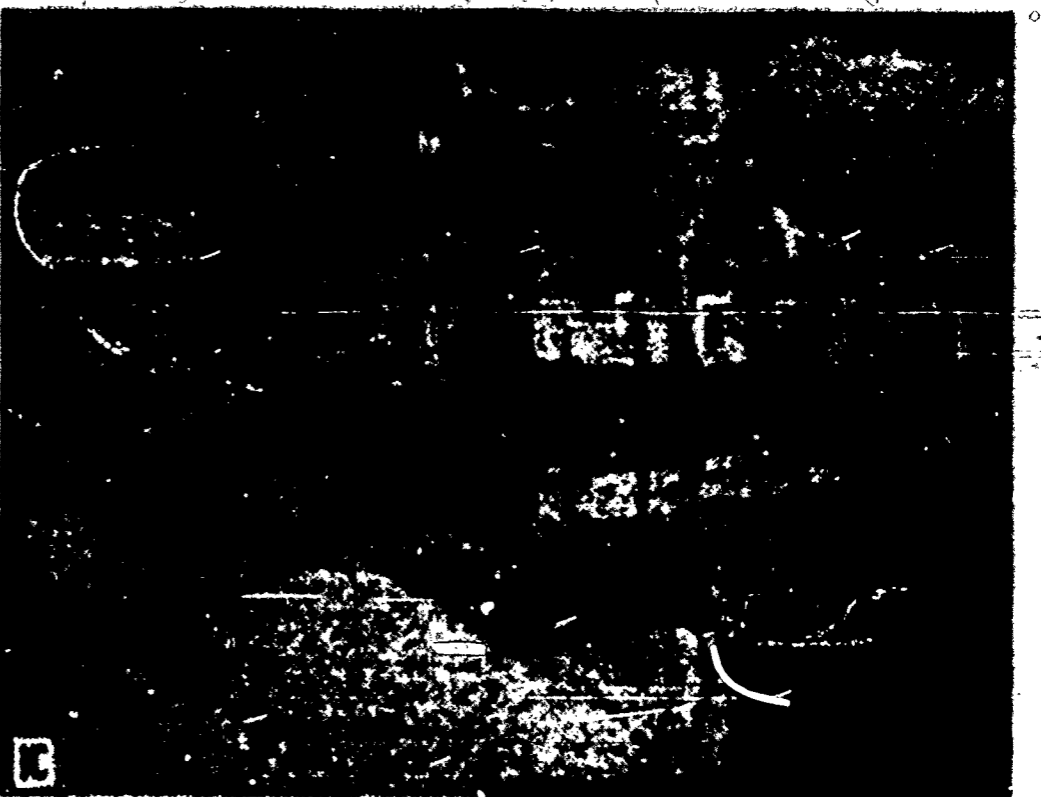
Monsignor Newman brushes over the cruel years in the camp with the comment "everyone is tired of atrocity stories, so I will leave it that way."

1,500 Yugoslav Soldiers Refuse to Return Home

Munich — (INS) — Some 1,500 Yugoslav soldiers who had refused to return to their country were recognized last week by American military authorities as "Allies" instead of displaced persons.

Spokesmen for the Yugoslav going home on the grounds that the present regime there is dictatorial

MONTE CASSINO RISES AGAIN



The Italian Government has given its generous help and allotted several million lire to remove the ruins at Monte Cassino. Laborers are shown, upper photo, clearing the rubble. Lower photo, construction has begun on the new convent of the Benedictines. (NC Photos)

Reported Russian Visit By Dr. Walsh is Denied

Rome — (NC) — There is no truth in reports distributed by a secular news agency that the Rev. Dr. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., regent of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, Washington, "recently returned from Russia," it was authoritatively stated here.

Consequently, press speculations on the "unusual importance of his report on the Soviet Union to the Holy See" are without any foundation, whatsoever, it was said.

As a matter of fact, Father Walsh has not been in Russia for over 20 years, not since he went to that country in 1922 as head of a Papal relief mission and as representative of American Ca-

tholics on the American Relief Administration.

Father Walsh, who serves as an advisor on geopolitics to Justice A. Jackson's Council for the Prosecution of Axis War Criminality, recently came to Rome from Nuremberg, Germany, headquarters of the war crimes commission, and at that occasion was received in audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Order Catholic Schools in Syria to Close

Paris — (RNS) — All Catholic schools in French-mandated Syria have been ordered closed by Syrian authorities. It was learned here. The action is believed to have been inspired by anti-French nationalist influences seeking complete independence for Syria.

The Catholic schools, which have an enrollment of 35,000 students, were ordered to close on October 15, and were said they could reopen only if all teachers were Arabs and the Koran was taught.

Charges French Catholics As Terrorist in Syria

Paris — (RNS) — A French Government spokesman here has charged here that a "series of acts of terror against French Catholics is raging in Syria."

"Atrocities" have been committed, the spokesman said, while schools and hospitals have been closed. The French schools in "Aleppo," Damascus and Hama are operating, he said.

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