

Jap Churches Hit Hard; Casualties Set at 10,000

CATHOLIC HONOR FOR G-MAN



Cardinal-Designate Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, presents the 1945 Club of Champions Medal to the Catholic Youth Organization of the New York Archdiocese to FBI Chief, J. Edgar Hoover, for his fight against juvenile delinquency. James A. Farley (right), former Postmaster General of the United States looks on. (AP Photos).

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Tokyo — Death and destruction rained heavily upon the Catholic Church in Japan during the war. A summary of the damage to Catholic institutions has just been compiled and translated here, showing a fifth of all Catholic churches in the country damaged or destroyed and deaths running well over 10,000.

Severest blow of all to Catholicism was the atomic bomb which fell on Nagasaki, the cradle of the Church in Japan. It was there that St. Francis Xavier planted the Church in 1549 and there for 225 years during the anti-Christian persecutions it maintained its faith underground.

When the atomic bomb fell in August, 1945, ten thousand Nagasaki Christians were killed at one time, three out of six parish churches were destroyed and one made unusable, three out of six schools were destroyed, all but one monastery went up in flames, and all five Catholic social institutions, hospitals, kindergartens, etc., were reduced to ashes.

Japanese Catholics embraced some 300 parish churches in 1940. Fifty-nine of these were destroyed during the war, plus 71 school buildings, 27 rectories, 90 other buildings on Catholic compounds, five missionary houses, two publishing houses, one welfare center and four bishops' houses.

But general statistics do not tell the whole story. The Catholic Church in Japan was largely an urban institution, and thus was written heavily by the bombing of Japan's cities. For example, in the nine bigger cities of Japan were 54 of the strongest Catholic churches. Of these, 28 were completely destroyed and ten badly damaged, 72 per cent of the major Catholic church property in the country.

Out of forty schools in these same nine cities, 22 were completely destroyed, 8 badly damaged, or 70 per cent destruction. Out of 49 convents and monasteries in nine of the bigger cities of Japan, 24 were destroyed, five badly damaged, a 59 per cent loss. Out of forty kindergartens, hospitals and other welfare institutions, 21 were destroyed and ten damaged, a 77 per cent loss.

In Tokyo, for instance, the cathedral stands today as four burnt-out walls. The cathedral of Sendai is a broken Gothic arch and a pile of rubble. The cathedral of Nagasaki and Hiroshima are also gone, victims of the atomic bomb. The cathedral of Yokohama is still intact.

JAPANESE AND CATHOLICS



"These are all baptized Catholics," Chaplain Raymond G. Heisel, (right), priest of Rochester diocese writes of these Japanese children. Others are: (left) Father Heisel's assistant, Sgt. Liborio Desautiers, eldest of a Vermont family's 12 children and Father Joseph Okoshi, native of Tokyo, and the "Lotus blossoms."

Diocesan Chaplain Sends Catechism from Tokyo

A beautifully illustrated Japanese catechism bearing a personal greeting was received this week by the COURIER-JOURNAL from a Japanese priest, the Rev. Joseph Okoshi, pastor of Chofu, a suburb of Tokyo.

The unusual book and its greeting were forwarded to this newspaper by U. S. Army Chaplain Raymond G. Heisel who visited Father Okoshi's parish at Chofu, a town 33 miles west of Tokyo.

Chaplain Heisel, a Rochester priest now stationed with the First Cavalry Division in Tokyo relates that the Japanese priest gave him an enthusiastic welcome and had all the children on hand to sing for him.

"Father Okoshi invited me to be celebrant at Benediction and it was a thrill to hear the children sing and pray," writes the Army chaplain. "We all held forth," he adds, "in a pretty little church in our stocking feet having parked our shoes at the door according to Japanese custom."

On the Japanese catechism which he presented to the COURIER-JOURNAL through Chaplain Heisel, Father Okoshi personally inscribed a greeting in Japanese which says (according to a translation supplied by Chaplain Heisel):

"Greetings to the COURIER-JOURNAL from Father Joseph Okoshi through Father Heisel."

Concerning Catholic life in the Tokyo area, Father Heisel reports that "the faith of Catholics here is strong and a joy to behold. Nearby is a Salesian seminary and vocational school."

Indicative of Catholic life in Tokyo, Chaplain Heisel also mentions a convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, a Catholic

hospital and the famed Sophia University which is staffed by the Jesuits.

Sophia University's rector, Father Bruno Ritter, is a German Jesuit, whom the Rochester chaplain describes "as perhaps the most outstanding civilian priest in Tokyo."

Revealing that the University rector recently had a 45-minute interview with General Douglas MacArthur, Father Heisel declares, "The General is 100% back of the Church over here and is cooperating to the limit."

Lateran Treaty Used In UNO Site Study

BY JOHN A. GREAVES

London — (By Cable) — The provisions of the Lateran Treaty, which determine the sovereignty of Vatican City as a neutral and inviolable territory, are being closely studied by a committee of the United Nations Organization collaborating on the rights and immunities UNO is to enjoy when it has permanently established headquarters in the United States.

Complex texts of the Lateran Treaty, concluded between the Holy See and Italy on February 11, 1929, have been distributed to the members of the UNO committee, it has become known. Suggestions have been made, it is learned here, to create an enclave in which UNO headquarters in the United States would be located.

If this proposal were adopted the provisions of the Lateran Treaty regulating the mutual rights and obligations of Vatican City and Italy may well serve as a model for defining the status of UNO headquarters.

It is understood, however, that the Government of the United States is not favorably inclined toward the suggestion to create a territorial enclave for UNO headquarters, but would prefer an arrangement somewhat similar to that governing the status of Tangiers in Spanish Morocco. A UNO committee is at present touring the Eastern United States in search of a suitable site for permanent headquarters.

The Lateran Treaty guarantees the "absolute and visible independence" of the Holy See and its "indisputable sovereignty" in the field of international relations.

Jewish Soldier Sees Stigmatic

Comrade Reports Him As Very Confused

Dubuque — (NC) — The "strange feeling" he experienced in talking to Theresa Neumann of Koenigsreuth, German stigmatic, is described by Kenneth Cullen, T/S, in a letter to his parents here.

"I remember hearing of her in our religion class at Lewis College," he writes, "but I never really believed everything I heard about her until I saw her today and after today my religious faith has grown."

"It is almost impossible to believe that 30 Fridays out of each year she goes through the suffering of the Crucifixion."

"Comrade Cullen went with us," writes Cullen. "After he had talked to Theresa Neumann in German she said to him 'You are a Jew and a K. K. man.' Cullen is a very confused fellow," he writes, "but I am sure he is a Christian."

How Disease for Canada... (NC) — The crew of the ship Sea of a new...

Catholics Cannot Be Anti-Semitic, Priest Says

Washington — (NC) — In order to be truly free from anti-Semitic prejudices it is not enough to admit that "some of my best friends are Jews," writes the Rev. Gregory Feige in a pamphlet "Catholics and Jews — A Study in Human Relations," which has just been published by the Catholic Association for International Peace.

In this pamphlet the author presents a study of anti-Semitism in the light of Christian teaching and democratic traditions. Anti-Semitism, he writes, has some particular cases of wrongdoing by Jews to draw a general conclusion. "Because some Jews have been found to be guilty it is then falsely stated that all Jews are like 'hat,'" the author writes.

"This trick of forming a collective judgment from individual instances should have a familiar ring to Catholics," Father Feige declares. "It is an echo of similar tactics used against them whenever an erring member of

by anti-Catholics."

"The loss in the consciousness of the average Catholic of our own religious bond with the people of Israel" is "significant," the author declares. Consideration of the Jewish question is merely an economic, racial, social, or political problem, he asserts, can never be "the full and true view of Catholicism."

"The Jew," he adds, "is tied to us primarily by the ties of a religious relationship which puts him in close spiritual contact with us. The Catholic has ceased to be a true disciple of his Divine Master when he no longer looks upon the Jews with the eyes of faith."

"The Catholic, above all others," he explains, "should never see in the Jew merely the representative of another race. In doing this he shows that he has lost contact with the sentiments of the Church, which has always put first the fundamental idea that God has made from one

Ex-Prisoners of Japs To Return to Guam

Washington — (NC) — "We're glad to be back. The Chamorros need us."

This is the sentiment of two Capuchin missionaries, the Revs. Alvin Lafer and Marcin Pellet, both of Detroit, who are arranging with the Navy Department here for return to their mission posts in Guam.

They were laboring on that island when they were taken prisoners by the Japanese at the beginning of the war. Interred in a camp in Kobe, Japan, they were repatriated to the United States last October. They expect to leave for Guam toward

Veterans Turn Missionaries

Bishop Reports Vocations Among GI's

Washington, D. C. — Veterans of World War II are choosing the mission field as a vocation in appreciable numbers. The Most Rev. James E. Walsh, Superior General of the Maryknoll Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, said at a two-day regional meeting sponsored here by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Bishop Walsh, who in 1945 flew behind Japanese lines to visit Maryknoll Missions in China, told the delegates that although he has no figures for the nation as a whole, his experience at Maryknoll alone would allow him to generalize.

Forty veterans of World War II entered training at Maryknoll alone last fall and there are more than 300 applications pending from other veterans, he disclosed.

Papal Aide Contacts German Hierarchy

Frankfurt on Main — (NC) — The Rev. Ivo A. Zeiger, S.J., former rector of the Hungarian-German College in Rome, has been delegated by the Holy See to assist the Papal Mission now stationed here under the responsibility of Archbishop Clarie to maintain suitable contacts with the German hierarchy. The Mission is specifically charged with looking after the spiritual and material needs of displaced persons of various nationalities, most of whom are assembled in camps under the jurisdiction of