K. of C. Asks UN Seat for Italy

New York — (NC) — Membership in the U.N. and the rights of a friendly, freedom-loving democracy at the peace table are asked for Italy in a resolution adopted here by the New York Chapter, Knights of Columbus, representing 40 councils of Manhattan and the Bronx.

Bavarian Abbot Deplores Occupation Conditions

Latrobe, Pa. — (NC) — A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since the Rt. Rev. Corbinian Hofmeister, O.S.B., Abbot of Metten, the Benedictine monastery in Bavaria, last was at St. Vincent's Archabbey here. That was back in the mid-'20's when he served as professor of modern languages in the seminary department and did parish work at Crabtree, Pa.

He tried to get here for the centennial celebrations of the founding of the "Monte Cassino of America," but bad weather prevented. Anyhow, he's here now for a visit and to revive old memories. Incidentally, it was the Bavarian monastery which Abbot Hofmeister now governs that Father Boniface Wimmer left a century ago and came to this country, where he founded St. Vincent's.

During the 20-year span since he last was here, Abbot Hofmeister has occupied a front-row seat at the drama of the rise and fall of the Nazis in Germany. As early as 1938 he was hurried off to jail by the Gestapo for refusing to disclose the whereabouts of two confreres, who fled to this country. He was arrested again in 1943, imprisoned a year in Berlin and another year at the dreaded Dachau camp.

Worse Than Dachau

Strangely enough, Abbot Hofmeister held that conditions at the less publicized Berlin jail were worse than those at Dachau. He said: "After a year in the Berlin prison I had lost 50 pounds and my vision was impaired by the dim light of my cell, which was tiny and damp. When I was transferred to Dachau, it seemed like heaven compared to the Gestapo jail in Berlin, because once more I could enjoy the fresh air and see the light of day."

"My prison mates at Dachau," he recalled, "included the famed Pastor Niemoeller, who occupied a cell next to mine. The guards in our section were much easier on us, for the war was rapidly coming to a close. After two full years of imprisonment I received my discharge and was ordered to report to the local police at Metten upon my return to the Abbey."

Abbot Hofmeister said that the German people were duped by the glowing promises of the Nazis and did not realize this [illegible] the bitter sufferings of totalitarianism, "but then it was too late."

Socialists, Reds Favored

Asked about present conditions in Bavaria, he said:

"The American military officers are, as a rule, very helpful, but there are unfortunate conditions arising from the policy of branding all Germans who were members of the Nazi Party before May 1937 as genuine Nazis, and overlooking party affiliations after that date. Some of the most zealous Nazis were the intensely indoctrinated youth who were too young to join the party until after May 1937. On the other hand, there were thousands who joined because it was disastrous not to join."

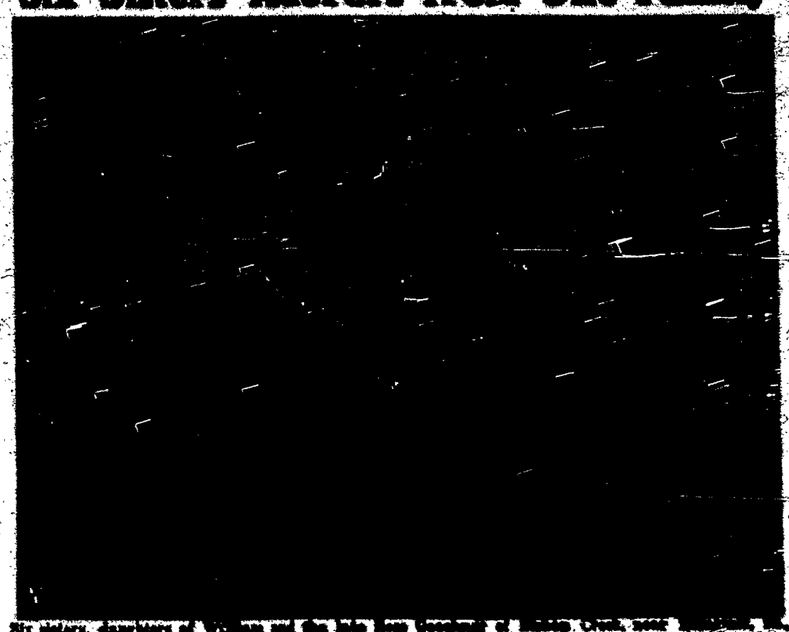
"To make matters worse," the Abbot continued, "socialists and communists are shown special favor by occupation forces. The Christian socialists, who polled 70 per cent of the votes in the last election, face considerable official opposition.

"Economic conditions are terrible. Many native Bavarians are unable to get jobs because of nominal membership in the party, while Prussian migrants from nothern Germany get jobs because no one is able to prove any party affiliation against them. As a result some of the best and highest paid posts in the government now are in the hands of men who formerly were professional criminals."

Requiem for Slain Fliers

New York — (NC) — A Mass of Requiem for Capt. Richard H. Claeys of St. Charles, Ill., and Corp. Chester J. Lowe, of Enfield, N. Y., both Catholics, and three other Reds, who were shot down over Yugoslavia, was offered in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

Six Sisters Adorers from One Family



Six sisters, daughters of [illegible] are pictured in the habit of the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood, whose provincial mother house is at Rome, Ill. Left to right, first row: Sister Marcella, chief cook at Catholic Children's Home, Alton, Ill.; Sister Adelia, anaesthetist and head nurse at St. Clement's Hospital, Red Bud, Ill.; Sister M. William, teacher at St. Andrew School, Murphysboro, Ill.; second row: Sister Renata, and Sister Laura, who made first vows recently; third row: Sister M. Jerome, supervisor of nurses at St. Vincent Hospital, Taylorville, Ill. (NC Photos)

(Address all communications to Catholic War Veterans, Inc., Public Relations Bureau, 1100 Empire State Bldg., New York 1, N. Y.)

Since the passage of the Terminal Leave Bill for enlisted men and women we have received considerable mail asking how enlisted personnel can determine the number of furlough days they are entitled to for the length of time they were in the service. You multiply the total number of months you served on active duty by two-and one-half. This figure will give you the total number of days furlough you were entitled to while in the service. You then deduct from the total numbers of days you were entitled to the actual number of days furlough you received while serving in the armed forces. The answer being the number of days furlough owed to you to be paid now under the provisions of the Terminal Leave Bill for enlisted personnel. Those serving more than four years cannot claim credit for more than the maximum of 120 days of furlough credits. Furlough time granted for emergency furloughs must be counted by you in computing the furlough time you have received.

Q. The parents of a young man who was killed in action ask how they can obtain their son's Air Corps Medal, a buddy of the boy states he has a true copy of the General Order awarding the medal to their son.

A. You should write to the Decoration and Awards Branch, Adjutant General's Office, U. S. Army, Washington 25, D. C., stating the full name of your son, the date of his death, a copy of the General Order mentioned by you and request that the Award be sent to you, together with any other awards authorized for your hero son.

Q. A wife writes that her husband served during World War One for one day and was given an honorable discharge. She asks if he is considered a veteran and what rights he is entitled to as a veteran?

A. Technically he is a veteran. He is not entitled to most federal government benefits, as they require that a man or woman serve for a minimum of 90 days to be eligible.

Spain Primate To Visit U. S.

Madrid — (RNS) — Enrique Cardinal Pla y Daniel, Archbishop of Toledo, and Primate of Spain, will shortly visit the United States, it was disclosed here. He will be accompanied by the Most Rev. Modrego Casaus, Bishop of Barcelona.

The Spanish primate is expected to attend the eighth annual congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine scheduled to open in Boston on October 28. It will be his first visit to the United States.

Among those who will greet the primate are Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Archbishop Richard J. Gerald of Boston and Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

Pope Receives U.S. Leaders

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has received in audiences at Castelgandolfo, papal summer residence, Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, acting commander of the U.S. Atlantic fleet, now on an [illegible] European tour; Vice Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, and Lieut. Gen. John C. H. Lee.

WISCONSIN LAITY FORM [illegible]

Milwaukee — (RNS) — Catholic laymen have formed a state-wide committee to support a constitutional amendment to permit use of public funds to transport parochial school children. The measure, known as the Gettelman-Hilker proposal, will be voted on in a Nov. 5 referendum.

Formation of the committee followed [illegible] days after the [illegible] unanimous [illegible] Wisconsin [illegible] separation of [illegible] The measure [illegible] the Wisconsin [illegible] Church [illegible] sity of [illegible] Wisconsin [illegible] sharply [illegible] their own [illegible] pose the [illegible]

Forty Hours Held At Geneva Church

Geneva — Forty Hours Devotions opened on Sunday morning, Sept. 29, at St. Francis de Sales Church.

Several visiting priests assisted the pastor, Rev. Edward H. Ball, in the Forty Hours program.

Rev. Thomas Sweeney, C.S.P., of Our Lady of the Lake Retreat and Mission House on Lakeland Road, delivered the sermons at the evening services.

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