

Reds Deny Religious Facilities To UN POWs

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Freedom Village, Munsan, Korea—(NC)—The communists ignored the Geneva Convention rules on religious facilities in their treatment of American and other UN prisoners of war.

They provided no priests or ministers to attend these prisoners, although the North Koreans admitted that they were holding three English-speaking priests—two Columbian Fathers and one

Freedom Village, Munsan, Korea—(NC)—A young soldier from Malsan had just been released by the communists. He told Father (Lieut.) Ernest F. Ernst, Marine Corps Chaplain, that he had been held in a place where you could not stand up, he said.

After a while, the communists allowed prisoners to gather for religious meetings conducted by themselves. But the camp authorities created difficulties, for instance assigning the prisoners to work at the same time.

ONE AMERICAN told Protestant Chaplain L. W. Moschum of the Marine Division that the communists gave permission for regular Sunday services only seven or eight months ago. They required the prisoners to submit the Scripture texts and the words of the hymns to be sung in advance for censorship. If Catholics would gather to recite the Rosary together, the communist guards would break up the group.

How did the men react under these restrictions?

In spite of the communist attitude and the absence of priests and ministers, they met for prayers every Sunday in one camp, on big feast days in another. In one camp, containing British and American POWs, they gathered on days like Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, with American GIs taking the lead, according to Rifleman Cecil Anderson from Belfast, Ireland.

Corp. Ernest Costanza from Denver, Colo., who served with the 8th Cavalry and was taken prisoner in November, 1950, said: "Religious services were held once in a while. Some of the boys conducted them." In another camp, an American Catholic soldier gathers the men every Sunday and, from a small table, reads the prayers of the Mass.

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If you spoke against their (the communists') teachings, you'd be penalized later. They would throw you in jail. In a place where you could not stand up, he said.

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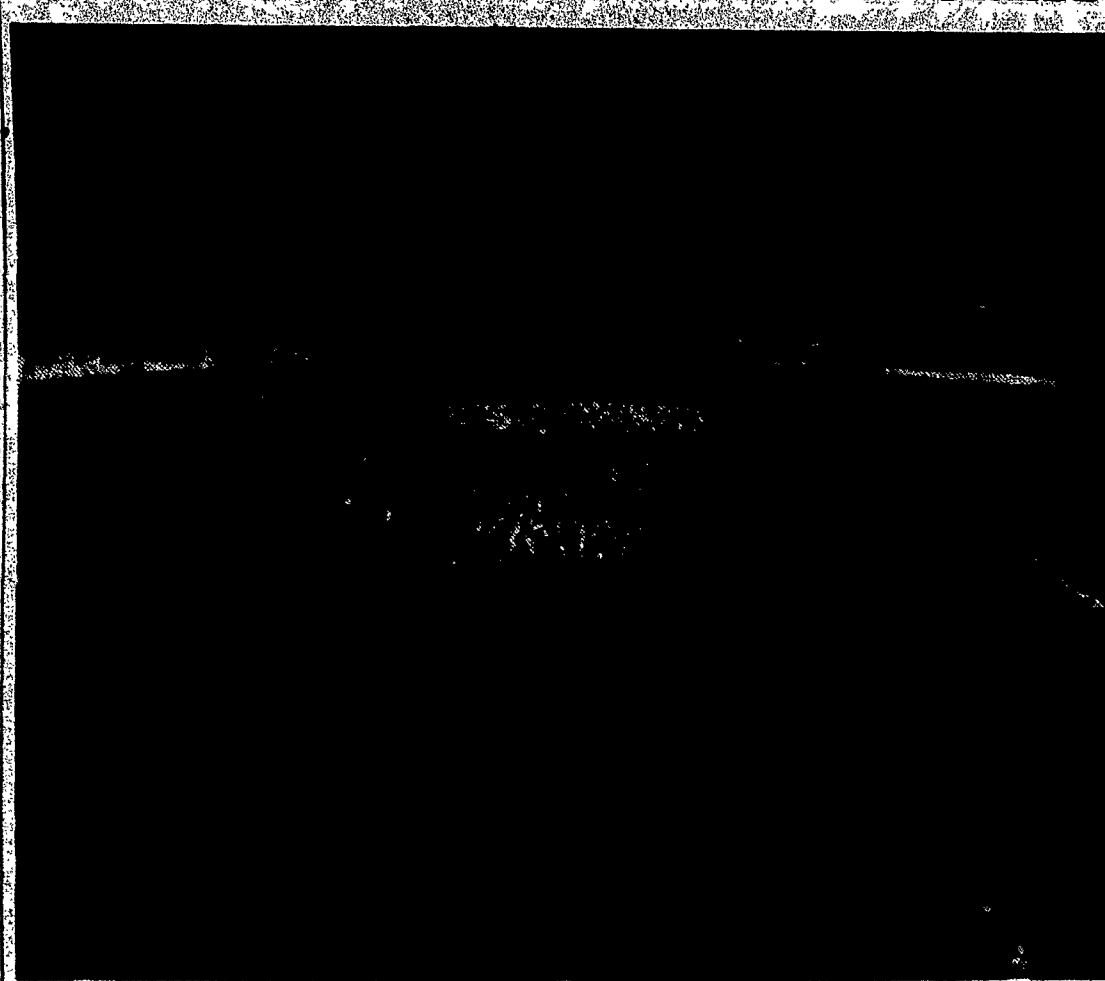
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AUSTRALIAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



Sydney, Australia—Some 1,000 school children form a tableau of a gold chalice during a huge outdoor "Communion Night" rally held as part of the National Eucharistic Congress here. The symbolic gold chalice is seen surrounded by a White Host on a background of a living crimson cross in front of an illuminated altar (background of arena). Archbishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., of Philadelphia, addressed the rally which was attended by about 75,000 persons.

Return of POWs Recalls Heroic Story Of American Chaplain In Korea

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Munsan, Korea—(NC)—The return of American soldiers from communist prison camps focusses attention again on the heroism of a Catholic chaplain: Father (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun from the Wichita (Kan.) diocese.

Father Kapaun went into captivity with some of these men early in November, 1950, near Unsan in northwest Korea. He was captured because he went back to take care of wounded in a position almost surrounded by the enemy.

His name does not appear on the lists of war prisoners published by the communists. In press interviews here, the released men said there was no chaplain in the prison camps now. Probably, Father Kapaun did not survive the rigors of the

early stages of captivity. HIS SELF-SACRIFICE makes one of the great chaplain stories of the Korean war. I heard part of it during that winter of 1950 from men who were with Father Kapaun and escaped. I heard more later from other sources. And when the recently released prisoners can talk at leisure they will surely have a climax to add: The story of Father Kapaun's devotion to his men in the first stage of captivity.

As chaplain to the 8th Cavalry Regiment—through the first months of the Korean war, Fa-

ther Kapaun became a hero to his men. In October, 1950, when the driver of a jeep carrying litterers was killed at the wheel, Father Kapaun ran up, took the wheel and drove the jeepload of wounded over the fire-swept road to safety. This, and other episodes, made the chaplain a legend in the regiment—even before that unforgettable night outside Unsan.

It was the first time that Chinese communists attacked United States troops in force. Hence, the 8th Cavalry men welcomed here this week were some of the first American prisoners taken by the Chinese Reds.

IT WAS ALL SOULS' Day, 1950. The situation was already threatening in the afternoon, when Father Kapaun was saying his last of the day's Masses. The Chinese attacked during the day, but the full-scale attack, with bugles blowing, came toward midnight.

Father Kapaun stayed at the battalion command post to attend the wounded until it was overrun by the enemy. He was with a party that succeeded in withdrawing across a small river. Then the chaplain heard that there were more wounded men still in the area. With the medic, Dr. Clarence L. Anderson from Long Beach, Calif., he went back through darkness and the chaos of the battle.

Father Kapaun stayed with the wounded for the rest of that night and the next day. The men fought from a perimeter, with the wounded in the center, until further resistance became hopeless. It was decided that the injured might try to escape southward. The priest and the doctor stayed with the wounded and captured.

WITHIN TWO WEEKS, the Chinese communists released some prisoners taken on that occasion. One soldier brought a note from Father Kapaun for a fellow-chaplain: Father (Capt.) Francis M. J. McCullough from Philadelphia archdiocese. "Dear Mac: I am a prisoner," the note said. "I am saying Mass."

It was a puzzling question how Father Kapaun could still say Mass. His jeep and the trailer with equipment had been burned on the road during the night of the attack. It seemed hardly possible to salvage the Mass kit and carry it through the turmoil of that night and the next day.

Months later, I got a probable solution from Father (Lieut. Col.) Harold O. Pradell from Milwaukee archdiocese, who was then chaplain of the First Cavalry Division. "Early in the war, Father Kapaun lost his Mass kit in the battle along the Nakdong river. After that, he carried over-shouldered the Mass kit in the pockets of his overcoat," Father Pradell said.

Church Examiner Holy Cross Founder

Freedom City—(NC)—The writings of Father Anthony South, founder of the Holy Cross Order, were being read at a luncheon given by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy See in connection with the canonization of Father South. (The Holy Cross Order operates Notre Dame University in Indiana.)

Sermons Of No Use On Poor Prelate States

Manila—(NC)—Speeches, sermons and conferences will have no effect on people who are hungry. "We must go to the poor and help them, otherwise all our talk about religion will fall on deaf ears."

Archbishop Rufino J. Santos of Manila gave this reminder to 150 priests and laymen attending the Institute for Social Action at the Ateneo de Manila. All Philippine dioceses were represented.

The Archbishop expressed grave concern for the families of the poor, whose conditions, he said, render them easy prey for communist propaganda. The very poor are willing to take any chance in the hope of improving their lot and the communists, he reminded his listeners, offer them such a chance with their easy promises.

THE ARCHBISHOP told of a recent visit to a small chapel in the poorest slum section of the city where he said Mass for the people, and how deeply impressed he was at the cordial reception by the poor. The "thank you" of the poor, he said, means that they will take you into their confidence and you can talk to them about many things, including religion.

The poverty and dirt in the homes he visited, the Archbishop said, were shocking. In one home he asked a little girl, "Have you eaten yet?" In answer he received only a shy shake of the head, while the parents were greatly embarrassed but helpless. The money he gave this family would bring only temporary relief, but inspired him more than ever to carry on his program of relief for the poor.

Nuns Purchase T.B. Sanatorium

Franses, O.—(NC)—Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, of St. Louis, Mo., have taken over the tuberculosis sanatorium at Green Springs, south of here. It was owned and operated for some 30 years by Alex C. Johnson, a non-Catholic, who said he wanted to sell to an order of nuns because they would operate the institution as it should be.

Irish-Born Prelate Pledges Return Too Korean Mission

Dublin—(RNS)—A Catholic prelate recently released by North Korean Communists after nearly three years internment expressed his determination here to return to Korea and carry on his missionary work.

He is Magr. Thomas Quinlan, Irish-born Prefect Apostolic of Shunsen, whose arrival here drew the largest crowd ever assembled at the Dublin Airport.

The prelate had accompanied a group of six British civilian technicians, including Anglican Bishop Alfred Cecil Cooper of Korea, who traveled to London from North Korea via Moscow and Berlin.

MAGR. QUINLAN, a member of the Maynooth Mission to China, said that to be home again "is a foretaste of heaven." "Heaven cannot be much better than this," he said. "To be among friends and smiling people who are not afraid to talk of God and not be listening to people blaspheming Him and saying there is no God as I have been listening to for the last two years and ten months."

Since he had been unable to celebrate Mass during his internment, Magr. Quinlan said that "heaven began" for him in Moscow where Father Georges Rierson, A. A. American priest who administers the diplomatic colony there, granted him the necessary facilities.

HE SAID THAT in Berlin he was able to shed the coarse blue civilian clothing given him by the Communists and dress in proper clerical garb donated by an American priest.

Magr. Quinlan was silent about his treatment at the hands of the Communists. He said, however, that during his internment he had suffered from malaria, beri beri and night blindness due to malnutrition.

"The people of Korea gave us any medicine they had but they didn't have much," he added.

THE PRELATE said only one other priest out of his mission group of nine had survived since their capture by the Communists. He is Father Philip Crosby, an Australian, who may soon be released. The other seven members either were killed by the Communists or died during imprisonment. Magr. Quinlan was captured at

the outbreak of the Korean War when his mission station was overrun by North Korean Communist forces in June 1950.

God's Help Needed Against Red Peril

Los Angeles—(NC)—Human wisdom and skill are not equal to the task of combating international communism and assailing must turn to God if it hopes to overcome this evil. His holiness James Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, declared here.

The Cardinal spoke at the fourth annual communion breakfast of the Catholic Press Council which followed a Mass in St. Vibiana's Cathedral which he celebrated.

He told the Catholic newsmen that despite the rapid development in press, radio and TV communications, the world still gropes for lasting peace because not enough attention has been given to sound thinking.

"The enemy, which gives increasing evidence of having outwitted strategy and cunning," Cardinal McIntyre said, "has won a cockle with the wheat. It is the duty of conscientious citizens, newsmen and broadcastmen, therefore, to follow the Biblical injunction to separate the cockle to be burnt in rather than disseminate it through the channels of world public opinion."

Wacs Receive Patron Medals

Fort Monmouth, N. J.—(NC)—Fourteen members of the Women's Army Corps received medals of St. Genevieve, patron saint of Wacs, at the close of a week-long mission here.

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