

'I Was Prisoner Of Korean Reds'

General MacArthur Troops Almost Rescued Missionaries

By REV. WILLIAM R. BOOTH, M.M.

This is the third of an exclusive NC series of articles in which Father William Booth, a Maryknoll Missioner from Brooklyn, recalls some of his experiences as a captive of the North Korean Communists. Previously he told of his early imprisonment and described his fellow prisoners, among them two outstanding men: Bishop Patrick Byrne and Monsignor Thomas Quinlan.

One of the most tragic events of the whole Korean war could have been avoided. I am referring to that terrible procession of suffering that has become known as the Death March.

When General MacArthur made his famous landing behind Red lines and went on the counter-attack in the south, he threw the North Korean army into complete confusion. The Americans started for the Yalu and came fast. The North Korean forces, caught off balance, were quickly eliminated and wiped out. We had been moved back into the mountains, but with the end of the war in sight even our guards deserted us.

We set out looking for the remaining Americans. We must have been very near them when our Army had known where we were, or if we had known where it was, we would have been freed. But instead of liberation we found the Chinese Communists pouring over the Yalu and imprisonment again.

Our new commander was a North Korean major whom we nicknamed "The Tiger" because of his cruelty. He ordered us on a forced march of eight days to get us safely away from the Americans. The Tiger hated us because we represented countries which had matched victory from his own and delivered one of the most smashing military defeats in history. His ambitions and dreams were shattered and there was no mercy left in him.

THE DEATH MARCH was made in winter weather. It took us eight days to travel a hundred miles through the mountains. It was a procession of suffering that cannot be even imagined. Part of the time it snowed, and always the weather was freezing. The wind screamed around our heads. And all ways at our side was a North Korean guard, his rifle ready to be used on anyone who fell out of line. The other nights we were herded into huts, some times so tightly packed that we could not even move.

Picture the procession of misery. There were 725 G.I.s, many of them wounded, all of them weak, some with bare feet. There was a group of foreign diplomats, officials. Then we 59 civilians — men, women and children. All of us were starving, practically all wrecked by diarrhea and dysentery. The filth was falling from our teeth from malnutrition. We were skin and bones, having lost on an average of fifty pounds apiece. I did not weigh over a hundred pounds.

Picture a bleak mountain pass. Watch this procession of sick and starving, struggling up the steep trail. The cold wind made its victims numb. The swirling snow blots out some of the misery ahead and behind, but not enough to conceal what is going on. On the snow strewn trail of blood, yard after yard we plod on. The spy and the young receive the same treatment.

I SEE THE LITTLE band of Carmelite Sisters before me. Their tiny sandals stained with the blood of their bare feet. Pitifully they struggle on, clutching their few possessions — their blanket apiece and their bowls and spoons. One Sister is blind and has to be guided along. Another is wrecked with the cough of tuberculosis. Still another is ready to collapse from the most acute diarrhea.

Sister Beatrice, superior of St. Paul of Chartres convent in Seoul, can hardly stand. Sister Eugenie, her companion, and others try to drag her along. But her suffering and her 70 years are too much. Her weight drains the last remaining strength from her helpers. Their strength quickly ebbs, and she totters and falls by the roadside unable to get up.

A North Korean guard comes up. There is the explosion of a gun. Sister Beatrice's body is pushed off the side of the trail. It starts to roll down a steep slope and with a dull thud lands in a ravine at the bottom of the mountain. And over the rush of the wind the laughter of the North Korean guards echoes down the line.

That was the Death March. On the day Sister Beatrice died, 21 G.I.s also fell out of line and were shot. So was one civilian woman, a White Russian. The procession was a procession of death. Over the eight days 98 American soldiers died.

And even when the march came to an end, the weakness that it left brought about deaths. FATHER PAUL Villemot died the day after it ended. Father Antoine Gombert the next day. Father Julian Gombert the next day. Bishop Patrick Byrne. Father Joseph Cadara. Father Joseph Bulteau. Father Canavan. More Sisters. More civilians. And many more G.I.s.

The likes of these months of suffering between the invasion of South Korea and the end of that first winter has seldom been equaled. Death was on every side. Of the thirteen members of the Parish Foreign Mission Society arrested by the Reds, only one was to be alive to be repatriated more than two years later.

I have been asked how human beings, even though Communists, could allow other human beings to suffer the way they did on this march. The answer lies in the materialism of Communist paganism.

"The soul of a human is no different than that of an animal," said a guard to me on this march. "In fact a reactionary idea is lower than any physical thing on earth."

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

64th Year

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1953

14 Pages

These Hear Christ's Call To Follow Him



THE HOLY HABIT—Climax of the impressive reception rite of the Sisters of St. Joseph shows young novices returning to

the Chapel, having exchanged their bridal white for the holy habit of their religious calling. (Courier Staff Photo)

St. Joseph Sisters Receive 27 Young Women Into Community

Twenty-seven young women received the religious habit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and became the community's newest novices at the impressive reception ceremony held yesterday in the Feast of the Visitation, in the Holy Family Chapel of Nazareth Motherhouse, Pittsford. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Lawrence B. Casey, D.D., presided at the ceremony.

The group of young women, as "Brides of Christ" in long white gowns and veils, presented themselves to the Bishop and asked for the habit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

AFTER HEARING their earnest request, Bishop Casey blessed the habits, veils, cinctures and rosaries they were about to don, and then sent them forth to exchange their bridal finery for the black habit which the Sisters of Saint Joseph have worn for more than 300 years.

The newly garbed Sisters re-entered the chapel, minutes later, as the Novitiate choir sang the hymn "Veni, Spousa Christi." They were then given the new names by which they will be known in religion.

THE 27 NEW Sisters who received the religious habit and their names in religion are: Miss Helen M. Weber, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Weber of Holy Redeemer parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Marcella.

Miss Mary E. Ford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clesie Ford of St. Paul's parish, Oswego, will be known in religion as Sister de Chantal.

Miss Dorothy T. Rhodes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Rhodes of Sacred Heart Cathedral parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Deetta.

Miss Regina N. Bush, daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Bush and of Mrs. Regina Bush of Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira, will be known in religion as Sister Camplon.

Miss Mary A. Agostinelli, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Achille Agostinelli of Immaculate Conception parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Agastina.

Miss Phyllis Cameron, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Moran of St. James' parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Susan.

Miss Joan J. Rabbin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Liborio Rabbin of St. Philip Neri parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Saint Agnes.

Miss Anne M. McKendrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry McKendrick of St. John the Evangelist parish, Binghamton, will be known in religion as Sister Marcella.

Miss Elizabeth Ritzenthaler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ritzenthaler of Blessed Sacrament parish, will be known in religion as Sister Ella.

Miss Joan E. Cox, daughter of the late Mr. Austin Cox and of Mrs. Austin Cox of St. Charles Borromeo parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Madeline.

Miss Marion E. Greer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Greer of St. Aloysius parish, Auburn, will be known in religion as Sister Francis.

Miss Beverly J. Twomey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Twomey of St. Mary's parish, Auburn, will be known in religion as Sister Joseph.

Miss Anne K. Michalek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony K. Michalek of St. Cecilia's parish, Elmira, will be known in religion as Sister Clare.

Miss Carol J. Hantke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philomen Hantke of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Carlin.

Miss Theresa M. Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Bailey of St. Mary's parish, Oswego, will be known in religion as Sister Theresa.

Miss Mary Ann Elley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emery J. Riley of St. Anne's parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Janine.

Miss Ruth Ann Olmowy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Olmowy of St. Peter & Paul parish, Elmira, will be known in religion as Sister Eucharis.

Miss Gloria Massarella, daughter of Mr. Elizabeth Massarella of St. Francis Xavier parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Veronica.

Miss Ann M. Weaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weaver of St. James' parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Perpetua.

Miss Mary E. Weaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weaver of St. James' parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Felicitas.

Miss Mary F. Whalen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Whalen of St. Louis' parish, Pittsford, will be known in religion as Sister Judith.

Miss Barbara L. Ferch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Ferch of St. Ambrose parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Vincent.

Miss June A. Burley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Burley of St. Charles Borromeo parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Melia.

Miss Patricia A. Gouse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Gouse of St. Augustine's parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Winifred.

Miss Patricia A. Neary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Neary of Holy Redeemer parish, Rochester, will be known in religion as Sister Petrus.

Miss Bernadette Lovv, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lovv of St. Casimir's parish, Elmira, will be known in religion as Sister Casimir.

Miss Annette J. Traly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Traly of St. Patrick's parish, Mount Morris, will be known in religion as Sister Gonzaga.

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Agnostic's Search For God Follows Path To Priesthood

Moorehead, Minn. — (NC) — It took some Presbyterian missionaries, the prayers of his Lutheran mother, and the Masses of a Jewish-convert priest. But the youth who was an agnostic has at last become a priest of God.

As Father Augustine Corrida, O.S.B., he is now working among Mexican Catholics in the United States. It isn't easy for Father Augustine to trace his path to the Church. An intricate background, prayers by people throughout the world and God's mysterious graces make a complex pattern.

BORN IN Vienna in 1916, he was baptized a Lutheran. But in his youth he became an agnostic — a "passive kind," but still a youth with no belief in God. Then came Hitler's troops and the youth's career would be determined to become a priest.

THREE YEARS later at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, he was introduced to Father Oesterreicher. "He remembered my name," Father Augustine recalled, "and said that he had been praying for me."

In New York on June 13 at the invitation of Father Oesterreicher, the former agnostic, now Father Augustine, O.S.B., sang his first solemn High Mass. His brother, a non-Catholic, came from Haiti to attend. And in the church were members of the Presbyterian mission band with whom Father Augustine had worked in Venezuela.

Now stationed in Moorehead, Minn., to help Mexican workers there, Father Augustine will return to St. John's Abbey after his seasonal duties end. His happy future goal: To return as a Catholic priest to the Southern hemisphere and serve with the Benedictine missions in Mexico and Puerto Rico.

HE THEN started a search. In Venezuela was a group of American Presbyterian missionaries, "very wonderful people" who believed in helping other men and believed in God. The young man joined them, throwing himself into youth work. But his search was over. Father Oesterreicher promised to pray for the young man, remember him in his Masses.

Red Cross Receives \$10,000 From Pope

Geneva, Switzerland — (NC) — A gift of \$10,000 was received here by the International Red Cross Committee from His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Accompanying the donation, the committee announced, was a letter from the Vatican Secretariate of State which said the Holy Father "in spite of the innumerable burdens laid upon the Holy See, wished to give tangible token of his goodwill towards the International Committee."

Flowers are emblems of a bright and better land. Perry's Flower Shop Inc. 441 Chili Ave. GE. 6100; Hotel Resaca Arcade, HA. 1900.—Adv.

Rocket-Traveling Priests Forecasted

Rome — (RNS) — A new era may be opened to missionaries with the advent of rocket travel, according to Observatore Romano, Vatican newspaper.

Science has progressed so fast in this century that rocket trips to the moon and other planets may be made in the near future, the paper said. And when such trips are attempted "a priest will certainly accompany the space pioneers," it added.

Observatore pointed out that priests had taken part in many geographical discoveries and expeditions in the past.

Ex-Counterspy Disputes President On 'Red' Books

Cincinnati — (NC) — Matt Cvetic, who gained fame as a communist counterspy for the FBI, took issue here with a suggestion made by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his speech at Dartmouth College.

The President suggested that students be permitted to read the works of communists. Mr. Cvetic said this is "the same as having students go to the library to learn about murder, rape and robbery from books."

STUDENTS SHOULD learn about communism, but not from books by communists, Mr. Cvetic said. He added, "These people are carrying out mass murder and have millions in slave labor camps. Communism is not just in the realm of ideas, it is a conspiracy pledged to our destruction. It is the duty therefore, of our government, of our boards of education, to provide students with textbooks that will tell the truth about communism, its aims and its methods."

Mr. Cvetic, who is 44 and a member of St. Mary's parish in Pittsburgh, was interviewed by an N.C.W.C. News Service correspondent when he came here to address Xavier University's Operation Youth. Working as an undercover agent, he succeeded in infiltrating the Communist Party in this country and managed to fool the Reds for nine years.

WHILE POSING as a communist, Mr. Cvetic said he first worked as an interviewer with the United States Employment Service.

"That was a wonderful job for a party member," he said. "An interviewer could steer faithful party members to influential jobs with very little fear of detection." But he was detected by his boss in the employment service who was "a hot-tempered Irishman named Fagan," Mr. Cvetic ex-

Chinese Priest Serves In Austria

Vienna — (NC) — Austrians have been used to seeing and have welcomed, priests of foreign extraction in their midst.

But what has happened now is unique in the history of the Church in Austria. A Chinese Father Paul Lue Kao Tung has been named assistant to the parish priest of Brannberg, in the archdiocese of Salzburg.

Father Tung, a native of South Shantung, was received into the Church at the age of 12. After completion of his studies at a theological seminary in China he was ordained in 1930.

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Had Trouble 'Blowing A Fuse'

Colloquial Speech Stumps Young German Visitor

Titonka, Iowa — (NC) — Alfons Knauth's year in America has taught him a lot—but one of the things it took longest to learn was the difference between literary English and colloquial American.

A 17-year-old resident of Kuernbach, in the state of Baden, Germany, Alfons has spent a year on a farm here under the auspices of the National Catholic Welfare Conference's German office.

Young Knauth, who has lived with Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Ortel—helping about their farm while attending Titonka High School — says when he first arrived he could hardly understand what people were saying.

When somebody warned him about "getting into a jam," all Alf could picture was a conserve to spread on bread, and it all sounded sticky. "Blowing a fuse" gave him trouble too, and when Mrs. Ortel said one day she'd "give him the dickens," he couldn't figure out why it wasn't "the stalin," "the hitler"—or else some English author a little more difficult than Dickens.

Al says about the worst boner he pulled was after his dentist gave him 10 pills to take and warned him not to swallow them all at once. When the visitor asked "What would happen if I did—would I kick the pill?" he says, he was almost laughed out of the office.