

LOOK OUT BELOW!

By REV. (Lt. Col.) FRANCIS L. SAMPSON

To bring you up to date—Father Sampson, chaplain of the 11th Airborne, U.S. Army paratrooper corps, chatted informally on D-Day and later into Holland and after the War's end and a year in an Iowa parish he returned to Chaplain's duty with the Paratroopers.

Father Natale's Reputation

CHAPTER 26

In April, 1953, a peacetime tragedy occurred that killed two officers and injured three others seriously. Two helicopters crashed in mid-air and burned.

I would not mention the incident in this narrative except that one of the officers, Captain William Dawson of New York, was beyond any question the most respected and beloved officer in the entire division.

He was the commanding officer of the parachute maintenance company, the unit responsible for the packing and maintenance of all "drop" equipment. I had never before seen a man so profoundly affected as in this case.

He was the father of five children, and his lovely wife was expecting a sixth. He was the ideal husband and father and an intensely devout Catholic, but he still found the time to listen to the problems of every soldier in his company.

Many a young soldier, lonely and embittered by the lack of any home ties, found in "Ace" Dawson's kindly counsel and help the substitute for a father's love he had never known.

Troopers seldom cry, but no one was ashamed of the tears he shed at the Memorial Mass for Ace. The men of his company had an oil picture painted of Captain Dawson, and below the picture they had inscribed these words: "Behold a man in whom there was no guile."

The German civilians passing the Warner Kaserne in Munich paused on their way to work to watch the four formations of three planes each, drone overhead at about twelve hundred feet. As they passed they soon began dumping their human cargo in the big open spaces across the road, and the spectators risked being late for work to watch.

Then they jumped; one, two, three, four (they always counted the jumpers as they leaped into space). . . . forty-three, forty-four. Yes, they said to each other, almost always forty-four in each plane. Every on-looker felt a little anxiety for each jumper until air filled the canopy of the falling man.

Little German boys on their way to school (for school begins early in Germany) ran to the paratroopers as they landed, grabbed the canopy of the chutes to spill out the air, and then helped the troops roll up the chutes. This frequently earned them a mark, and where in the world could a boy have so much fun and still be paid for it? They thought.

This day was a little different, the German people noticed. The troops were not getting into trucks to return to their companies. They were all assembling at one corner of the field where they had piled their chutes on top of each other to make a sort of table. Now they were putting a white cloth on top of this parachute table.

And what's that? They asked one another. Why, it looks like a crucifix from here. And that big man, he's putting on a long white garment, and . . . yes, sure enough, it's a priest, and he's going to say Mass. (Father Cowling, the Catholic chaplain of Warner Kaserne, was vesting.) Look! Now all the Americans are kneeling down, and all make the sign of the cross together as the Father begins the Mass.

And some of our little German boys are kneeling too. Why is all this going on? They asked each other. Could it be some big American Feast Day? Let's see. The 28th of September . . . why, today is the Feast of St. Michael! Saint Michael must be the patron of the Fallschirmjagers.

They were right. Saint Michael the Archangel is the patron of the airborne. God's angelic warrior-symbols for the Catholic paratroopers, the ideal of the winged soldier who strikes from above for the cause of God's justice.

The Society of Saint Michael for American Paratroopers was first organized at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, by Chaplain (Captain) Joseph A. Natale. This big, energetic young priest from Rochester, New York, is the best all-around chaplain the author of this book has ever known.

Gifted with a Notre Dame tackle's physique, an infectious



Father (Captain) Joseph A. Natale, a priest of the Rochester Diocese serving U.S. paratroopers in Germany, receives congratulations immediately following his 100th jump from an aircraft. M-Sgt. Chester Szoszek and Sgt. George Gardner of the 11th Airborne Jump School greet the chaplain. Jump occurred in February, 1958.

Father Natale To Return To U.S.

Father Joseph Natale, paratrooper chaplain from the Rochester Diocese, mentioned in this week's installment of Look Out Below, informed the Courier-Journal he will return to the United States in late August.

His new location will be at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, training center of 101st Airborne Division troops.

BOOK SHELF

Cornish Heroes

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA Nazareth College

Storm Out of Cornwall: A Tale of the Prayer Book Rebellion, by S.M.C. Kenney '59. 221 pp. \$3.75.

S.M.C. of the low-tempered Brother Peter's return tells the little known story of the Army of the Five Wounds, the march of ten thousand Cornishmen in defense of the one remaining treasure of their faith—the Holy Mass.

S.M.C. of the English Dominican Sister, intends this tale to be in the genre of Brother Peter and The Dark Wheel, and Spark in the Reeds, novels first and history second. But her honest response to this tragic story defies her: she writes history, the history of a death-march, and in every terse sentence the pressure of an amazing tragedy can be felt.

Don Sturzo Reported Ill

Rome — (NC) — A leading statesman of Italy, 87-year-old Father Luigi Sturzo, has suffered a collapse, but doctors are confident he will recover.

New Technique Speeds Learning

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Michael, Patron of Paratroopers

I will recite daily the prayer to St. Michael: St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. We humbly beseech God to command him, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by Thy Divine Power, thrust into hell Satan and all other evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

I will be mindful of my prayers of thanksgiving after a jump.

Top Honors Won In Burma

St. Paul's, run by the Christian Brothers, is the first Burmese school ever to win the first four places. Its students also won 7th, 12th and 17th places in the state scholarship exams.

Sainthood For Martyrs

Nagasaki — (NC) — Three Japanese, two priests and one Brother, are among nine martyrs of the 17th century whose cause for beatification has begun in Rome.

All Dominicans, the martyrs entered Japan secretly during the fierce persecution under Shogun, Temmu Tokugawa and died during the period 1633-1637.

One of the priest-martyrs, Father Diego de Santa Gertrude, was baptized as a student at the Jesuit college in Nagasaki. He entered the Dominican Order in Manila and was ordained in 1628. He returned to Japan in 1632 and was martyred the following year.

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Most Protestants Are Sincere In Their Adverse Feeling Toward The Catholic Church

Jefferson City — (NC) — A word of advice for the benefit of the Catholic laity was dispensed by a former Lutheran minister here.

Protestants asking Catholics questions about the Church don't want to go see a priest, said Irvin Arkin, the former minister who is a convert to the Catholic faith.

Income Securities For Conservative Investors

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Have Answers To Faith Queries

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Protestants asking Catholics questions about the Church don't want to go see a priest, said Irvin Arkin, the former minister who is a convert to the Catholic faith.

In an address before the Forum International group here, Mr. Arkin advocated that the Catholic laity should be encouraged to answer the questions of Protestants who profess an interest in the Church.

First layman to be appointed to the executive board of secondary schools of the St. Louis archdiocese, Mr. Arkin now is chairman of the language department at McBride High School in St. Louis.

Most Protestants are sincere in their adverse feeling toward the Catholic Church, Mr. Arkin said. He explained: "Protestants feel a bitter toward the Church because of fear which is engendered by misunderstanding and which in turn is caused by ignorance. Protestants labor under thousands of misconceptions about the Church, and only intelligent, articulate answers can satisfy their doubts."

A native of New York City where he received minor seminary training before ordination as a Lutheran minister at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mr. Arkin said that "we as Catholics must be able to dispel this ignorance, bring understanding, peace and finally tolerance."

He is the author of the soon to be released book, "Cultural History of Ancient Greece and Rome." He is currently engaged in writing "A Cultural History of the Ancient Jews."

Besides intellectual obstacles, the steps to conversion for a Protestant reader also are hampered by social and financial roadblocks.

He declared: "Imagine if you can, the problems of a Protestant minister, who has only specialized background in theology and foreign languages, trying to earn a living for a wife and family after coming into the Church. These material considerations are often greater than the intellectual."

Explaining his own conversion, Mr. Arkin said an early Christian fragment on the doctrine of Purgatory led him toward the Church. He said this excerpt dated back to the year 97, within the lifetime of St. John the Apostle, and it clearly set forth the doctrine of Purgatory.

"I knew," Mr. Arkin continued, "that Luther—and the other reformers had in mind to

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