

Cmdr. Bucher Tough but Popular

From Boys Town to the Pueblo

(The author of the following article, executive editor of The Priest magazine, is a graduate of Boys Town and a former U.S. Air Force Chaplain.)

By FATHER CLIFFORD STEVENS

(NC News Service) I was at Itazuke Air Base, Japan, a chaplain in the Air Force at the time, when I heard of the capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo. The name jogged my memory, but I took the picture of the captain, Lloyd Bucher, on the front page of the Stars and Stripes to recall where I had heard it.

Several months before, I had received my regular copy of the Boys Town Times, and there in a lengthy article was an account of Cmdr. Bucher being assigned as captain of the Pueblo.

I remembered "Pete" Bucher as a good-looking, always smiling, and rather shy fellow, two or three years behind me at Boys Town. We used to meet occasionally after I graduated from Boys Town and was attending Creighton University in Omaha. He was very popular, eventually became one of Boys Town's great football stars, and was known for an infectious wit and an innate kindness.

Hard-working, diligent and deep-down tough, he was friendly, bursting with enthusiasm, and there was an inherent compassion about him. His thoughtfulness was a legend at Boys Town.

After his graduation, he joined the Navy and then worked his way up through the ranks, studied hard and received his commission as a naval officer. A devoted husband and father, and an exemplary officer, no one at Boys Town was surprised when he was given command of the Pueblo.

As commander of the Pueblo, he was as much concerned for the welfare of his men as he was for the ship's mission, and all these traits blossomed after the capture of the Pueblo by the North Koreans and the imprisonment of the crew began.

Lloyd Bucher represents, indeed, a new breed of military commander, one that is becoming increasingly more common in today's military establishment.

Highly educated, resilient and flexible and capable of tough decisions under the most demanding of circumstances, he still is able to lead in such a way that every man in his command is inspired to give his best.

In contrast to the old type

of military leader who dominated everything by his personality and his will, a commander like Bucher, while he knows everything that is going on in his command, is able to direct the talents and energies of his men in an atmosphere of mutual respect, mutual responsibility and wholesome freedom.

His concern for his men was evident in every word that he spoke after the crew's release. He led them in courage and in opposition to the enemy, even demanding that his own life be taken when his men were threatened.

Rather than risk the lives of all of his crew, he was not unwilling to verbally admit that he had disobeyed orders, even though both he and the enemy knew this to be untrue.

I watched the television screen when the pictures of the release of the Pueblo crew were shown, and the thin, firmly erect and even smiling Pete Bucher watched as his crew crossed the bridge behind him.

I am sure, too, that the citizens of Boys Town were watching, remembering that he had once been just another citizen—like themselves and wondering perhaps what the future might demand of them.

In his football days, Pete Bucher had led the Boys Town football team to many victories, cheered on by the rousing voices of the citizens of Boys Town. He will be remembered now at Boys Town for greater things, and the story of the Pueblo will become one of the great legends at Boys Town.

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"Transplant Priest" on TV

Father Damien Boulogne, O.P., the first priest to receive a heart transplant, raises the host at the consecration of a nationally televised Mass in St. Lawrence church, Paris. It was his first public Mass since he received a new heart last May. Since then, there have been signs that his body may be rejecting the heart and has been under doctor's care.

India's Church Teachers To Meet

Bangalore, India — (NC) — India's Catholic educators will convene here in February for a "critical self-examination" of the Church's educational institutions in this country.

The convention of over 200 educators will assess the schools' future in the light of guidelines given by the Second Vatican Council and of recommendations made over two years ago by an education commission of the Indian government.

Cardinal Sees 'Spiritual Vacuum'

Trichur, India — (NC) — Valerian Cardinal Gracias of Bombay has warned that the people of India are "on the brink of danger" because the country's youth has lost the light of a moral attitude to life.

Speaking here at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the diocesan St. Thomas College and the 25th anniversary of the consecration of Bishop George Alapatt of Trichur, the cardinal said that ethical and moral norms had been devalued in the country.

He said he did not mean that India had become an atheistic country, but that there was a "spiritual vacuum" and "we are deviating from fundamental values."

Youth has begun to say, the cardinal added, that there are no permanent values, and "this is dangerous."

Another Basque See Filled

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has transferred Bishop Jacinto Argaya Golcochea to the See of San Sebastian, a center of Basque nationalist agitation.

His appointment less than a month after the death of Bishop Lorenzo Bereciartua y Balerdi of San Sebastian was taken by some as a sign of Rome's anxiety not to leave the See vacant during political turmoil.

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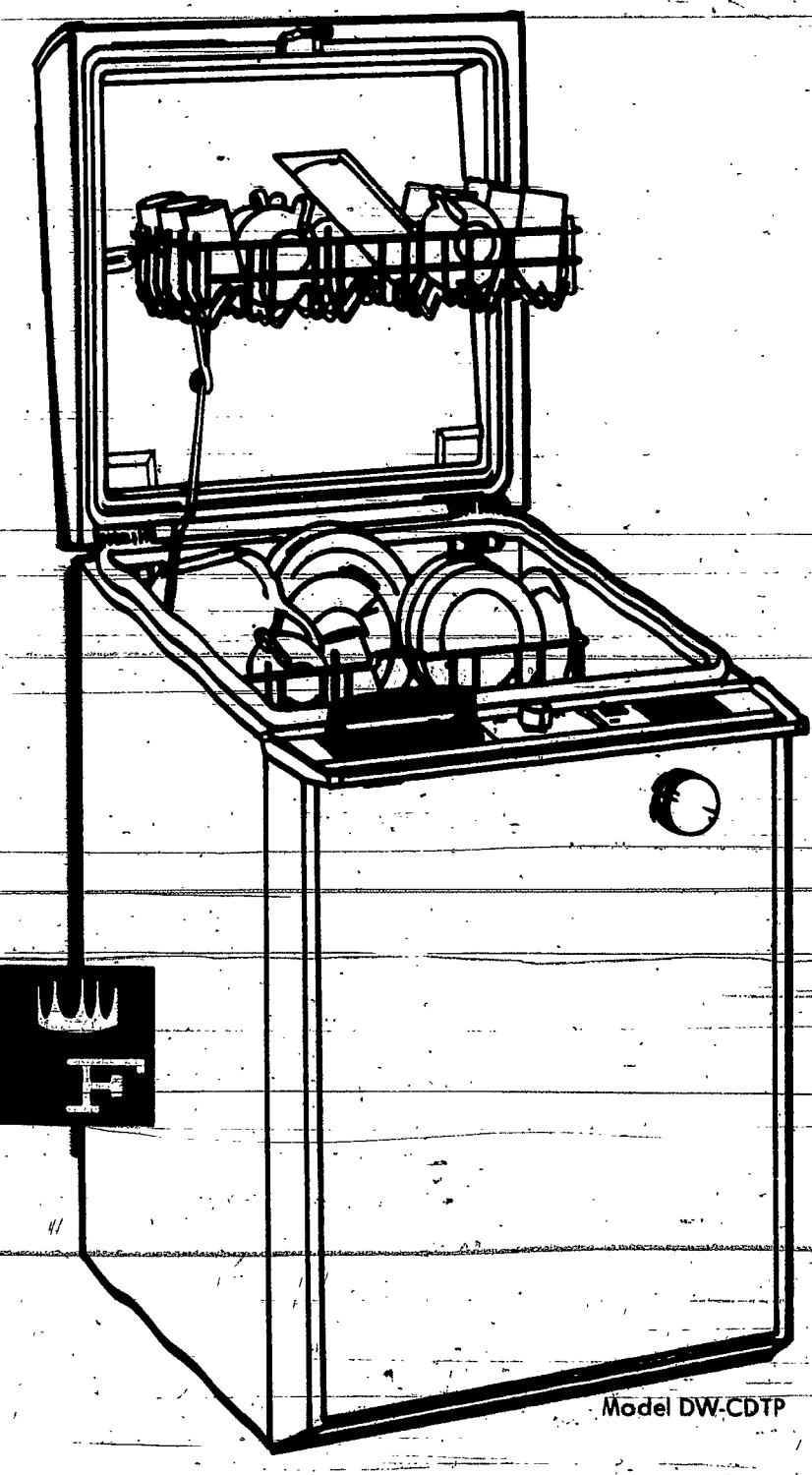
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(The author of the article is president of relief agency for Palestine, and executive of Catholic Near East Association.)
By MSGR. JOHN G. (NC News Service)
Baqua's Jordan — one of the refugees festering in the deserts of the unending Israeli wars.
To 10,000 men, women and children huddled here in winter mud, this is Baqua's is the body gave to a huge mud 30 miles north and as barren as the moon.
Fear...
New York — (RN) Christian scholars rael pleaded here for a view of the of the actions taken in its latest crisis. Arabs.
In a press conference national headquarters American Jewish Center here, Dr. G. Douglas president of the Holy Land Studies,

Medical...
Sister Mary Ming — Buddhist photo, was abbess monks may not apply when knoll nun for Sister Therese acceded to the tianity to

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