



## Uniforms

The presence of the uniform is noted in these photographs of the hearse bearing the simple wooden casket of Pope Paul VI into the square of St. John Lateran. The body of the pontiff is received by Cardinal Ugo Poletti at the doors of the great church on Wednesday.

# As He Came Home

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Rome — Pope Paul VI came home last Wednesday.

But instead of bands of angels there were 4,500 assorted police and military and four helicopters to guide him to his rest, from Castel Gandolfo to Rome, a trip of 15 miles.

His body was placed in a cypress casket for the drive from his summer home in the Alban Hills south of Rome. The funeral cortege left at 6 p.m. and even before that thousands lined the route to view the passage of the fallen Holy Father.

The first stop was at St. John Lateran Basilica, the home church of the Bishop of Rome. There Cardinal Ugo Poletti and a crowd estimated by police at 8,000 waited in a warm sun for the procession.

The crowd was quiet and calm during the waiting. The arrival of the cortege was signaled by four police helicopters which were operated at various heights over the crowd. Such heavy security also was evident not only by the numbers of police but also by the stationing of security forces on rooftops and on the walls of this ancient city. Rome, still shocked by the assassination

of Aldo Moro, is a nervous city.

At 6:51 p.m. the cortege turned the corner into St. John Lateran Square. Police cars and cycles and official cars were interspersed with open hatchbacks carrying Italian television newscasters. The cortege stopped briefly at the steps of the huge Church and Cardinal Poletti said some prayers. From there the cortege moved slowly but deliberately through crowded streets in the late afternoon Roman sun.

At St. Peter's Square a crowd of some 50,000 waited the arrival of the cortege and

at 7:28 p.m. the procession of cars pulled into the Via Conciliazone, proceeding very slowly. It took a full seven minutes to cover the approximate quarter of a mile into the square proper.

The cardinals who had already arrived in Rome for the conclave to choose Paul's successor were gathered on the steps of St. Peter's.

The pallbearers, all laymen, carried the closed casket into St. Peter's where services were conducted out of the public eye.

Throughout all of the day's events, a curiously quiet mood was displayed by the

thousands on hand. When the black car carrying the pontiff passed, a quiet smattering of applause would break the silence but otherwise only soft murmurs could be heard.

A tear was shed here and there but all in all the onlookers could be best described as emotionless.

By 6:50 p.m. as the sound of the chants from the services inside the basilica were broadcast into the square, the crowd had broken up into normal traffic of St. Peter's Square.

However, many of the activities of the busy week lay ahead.

