

BATAAN REVIVED MEN'S RELIGION

Only God Could Protect
Them, Tough Soldiers
Decided.

By GEORGE WELLER
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SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA, May 15.—"I bet you boys can't guess where I'm going," said an army officer just returned from Bataan. He had just stepped out from his first bath in four months and was rubbing his chest.

Nobody guessed because destination is one thing they do not even let you think about in the daily more stringent rules of the rear area of the war zone.

"I'm going," he said, "to church." The officer's announcement caused somewhat less astonishment than it would have two months ago when the first evacuees from Bataan began to arrive. Since that time it has begun to be noticed that outgoing officers have brought with them something less tangible than their notebooks of military intelligence but nonetheless definite. It is a marked enhancement of interest in religion.

From Battle to Church

It is noteworthy that, in a world dominated by production indexes and geographical strategy, men who have undergone the experience of battle have found themselves increasingly turning to God for consolation. It is interesting to see, here in Australia, this increased devotion meeting the tides of incoming troops who cannot but partake of the spirit derived from the Americans' ordeal in the Philippines and Java.

The officer described above, when he returned from church, was asked whether he felt it had done him good.

"I hope so. It was the first time I had visited a regular church in 20 years," he said.

Describing conditions upon Bataan, he said that the feeling that only God could help the besieged began when hospital No. 1 was severely bombed. The Japanese apologized for the outrage and the Americans considered themselves secure thereafter.

Four days later the Japanese launched an extremely heavy raid upon the same hospital with tragic success. Forty-seven Americans were killed, 53 wounded.

God Only Protector

"When they saw what happened there, they knew henceforward that only God could protect them," said the officer.

Services which had been held until then under Chaplain William A. Dawson, a Baptist minister of Camarillo, Cal., had only been visited by a handful but their number increased daily. After the hospital bombing the little chapel was crowded. There were many new baptisms among all faiths.

On Bataan peninsula the Catholic services of the Philippine scout regiment, which one American officer has called "without question the finest fighting force in the world today," were regularly attended by Protestant officers. Similarly, it is known that at least one American submarine commander, recently decorated with the navy cross, now wears around his neck St. Christopher's medal, given him by a Catholic priest in the Philippines.

Mae West Church

Increased interest in religion is apparent in the rear of the war zone, too. Among many places of worship in western Australia, regularly visited by Americans, is the church known to Australians as "Mae West's church." The church, actually named St. Columba, was given the nickname because the Australian pastor, when in the United States, had temporarily held a small pastorate near Hollywood. Observing an opulent lady worshipper, frequently seen at prayer alone, the clergyman made her acquaintance. When he expressed his desire to build a church upon the same model in western Australia, the unknown lady offered to help him financially, only later revealing herself as the film star.

NO-SPLINT IDEA USED FOR YEARS IN POLIO

By Science Service

CLEVELAND, May 15.—An active treatment of infantile paralysis in its early stages, somewhat like the now famous Sister Kenny treatment recently introduced into the United States by Miss Elizabeth Kenny of Australia, has been used at City hospital here for more than 20 years. Dr. J. A. Toomey told members of the American Academy of Pediatrics meeting here.

Many children getting this treatment are discharged "cured" at the end of the quarantine period of three weeks, Dr. Toomey reported.

In this treatment at City hospital, he explained, the paralyzed muscles are not kept motionless by splints or other devices, as was customary in treatment of infantile paralysis in this country during that period.

"The muscles are treated actively to the point of movement," he continued. "The patients seem much more comfortable than those immobilized completely. They respond more quickly; the time in the hospital is decreased, many children being discharged cured at the end of the quarantine period of three weeks."

"Certainly, such treatment does no harm. There was no lengthening of the muscles, no production of scoliosis (spinal curvature) and no more fixation than would follow the usual methods of therapy."

ARMY SEEKS CLOSER LINK TO SCIENTISTS

WASHINGTON, May 15 (U. P.)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson disclosed today that a program had been instituted to bring inventiveness of American scientists in closer contact with army and navy staffs.

To co-ordinate the work of the office of scientific research and the findings of leading civilian scientists, a three-man committee is being set up. It consists of Dr. Vanover

Bush of Carnegie Institute, Rear Admiral Willis A. Lee Jr., and Brig. Gen. Raymond G. Moses.

Mr. Stimson said that the program is designed to make certain that the general staff is conversant with ideas for new weapons which might be conceived by scientists.

RECEIVES DEGREE IN OHIO

Ernest E. Yunghans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Yunghans, 1026 Temple ave., received the degree of master of arts this week from Western Reserve University, Cleveland, O.

PRIMA DONNA OF 50 YEARS AGO DIES AT 89

FAIR HAVEN, N. J., May 15 (U. P.)—Mrs. Nannie Hart van Sauter, more familiarly known as Alexandre Morrisini, one of America's first prima donnas 50 years ago, died yesterday. She would have been 90 next month.

Mrs. Van Sauter, widow of the former Baron Frederick van Sauter, was born in Owego, N. Y., and moved to Cleveland where she sang in a church choir at the age

of 8 attracted attention. She made her debut in the United States at the old Madison Avenue opera house in Cleveland in 1877 and became a pupil of Dr. Leopold Damrosch.

She was the first American prima donna to sing in the role of Aida at La Scala in Milan.

COPULE WED 25 YEARS

Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Gwynn will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary Sunday afternoon at their home, 5120 Pleasant Run Blvd., North drive.

JAPANESE CLAIM 700 SLAIN ON CORREGIDOR

BERLIN, May 15 (German Broadcast Recorded by United Press in New York)—Advises from the Philippines today carried a Japanese headquarters announcement that 700 of the 14,000 American and Filipino troops on Corregidor were killed in defending the island fortress.

The Japanese announced that 12,000 prisoners were taken, more than half of them American, as well as 174 guns, 30 anti-tank guns and several hundred machine guns and great quantities of ammunition and foodstuffs. Other booty was said to have included eight searchlight batteries, firearms and 250 cars.

ACTOR SEEKS DIVORCE

RENO, Nev., May 15 (U. P.)—Leif Erikson, movie actor, said today he has established his residence at a resort on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe preparatory to seeking a divorce from actress Frances Farmer.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1942

SUIT ASKS RECOUNT IN 16TH PRECINCT

The first suit contesting the vote totals of the May 8 primary has been filed in circuit court by Leslie Rivers, 586 Middle Drive, Woodruff place, who lost his race for Democratic precinct committeeman, by three votes.

The suit asked for a recount of votes for committeeman in the 16th precinct of ward 10 where Hal W. Wilson was elected over Mr. Rivers by a vote of 65 to 62.

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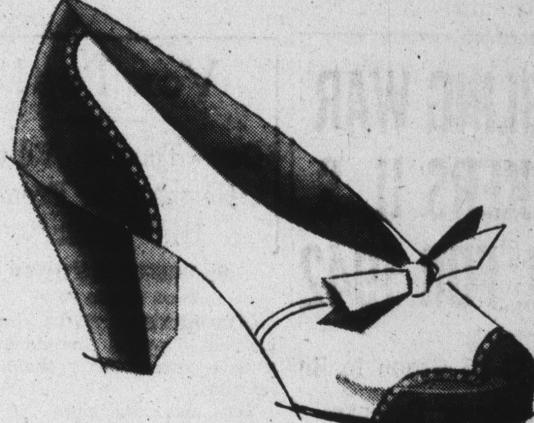
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