

OFFICIALS BUNGLED EXECUTION DECLARES PRIEST WHO GAVE COMFORT TO BECKER'S SOUL

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respondent.

OSSINING, N. Y., July 30.—That the execution of Charles Becker was bungled was the declaration made today by the Rev. Father Cashin, Roman Catholic priest, chaplain at Sing Sing.

"When Becker was placed in the chair the belt strap was not properly buckled on the left side," said Father Cashin. "This caused the body to shoot forward when the current was applied. The face turned toward the ceiling and the head slipped inside of the helmet so that the contact was on the forehead instead of upon the top of the head."

Becker's last hours in his cell were quietly spent. Although the doomed man raged for hours yesterday against Governor Whitman, who, as prosecuting attorney of New York county, had convicted him of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, he did not mention Mr. Whitman's name during the early morning. Just before being led from his cell, Becker said to the Rev. Father Curry, who was with him: "Father, I go to my death with no bitterness

in my heart. If any man has harmed me I heartily forgive him. Time is passing quickly, and soon I shall be no more but I am happy as I think that I shall soon be with my sainted mother in Heaven."

Father Curry went to Becker's cell at 4 o'clock to shrive him. Afterwards in telling of the condemned man's final hours, Father Curry broke down and wept. He could not finish the recital.

"Becker was very calm in his cell," said Father Cashin. "We went to him at 4 o'clock and found him ready for the ordeal. Of course, sleep was out of the question, although Becker had lain upon his cot for an hour or two. Becker had embraced the Roman Catholic faith and said he was ready to die. He asked us to repeat the 'salve regina' and accompanied us as we went over it three times."

"Becker pinned a picture of his wife upon his shirt over his heart. He could not speak of her without emotion. It was said that such a loving couple had to part."

"Becker died bravely and he died a Christian."

DEATH IN CHAIR

[Continued From Page One.]
this, as well as the leg of the trousers, was rolled to the knee so tightly that the veins stood out upon the bare flesh.

Becker's left hand hung down at his side. He opened and shut it several times as though this action helped him

to retain control of himself. Immediately behind Becker stood his spiritual adviser, the Rev. Father Cashin, the Roman Catholic chaplain at Sing Sing, and the Rev. Father Curry. Following the priests was Deputy Warden Charles H. Johnson, who came in with Becker at the doomed man's request.

Becker's head was turned toward the ceiling as the black helmet was strapped on.

His lips murmured but the words

could not be heard. An attendant who had adjusted the plate-strap, which was fastened with metal against the skin, was affected so greatly that his hands trembled and he dropped it. In an instant, however, he had recovered himself and all was ready for the fatal shock.

Becker sat with his head tilted backward. The lower half of his face was visible and his lips moved restlessly

all the time. His arms rested upon his knees and in his right hand he still grasped the little crucifix.

At that moment, a man whose identity was not revealed, pushed the switch. Becker made no sound but his body rolled in the chair and the straps creaked and groaned.

The body sagged forward and the doctors gave the signal to turn off the electricity. A stethoscope was applied

for a brief moment, then the doctors consulted among themselves. It was decided to give Becker another shock for he was a strong man and hard to kill. Two more shocks were given in quick succession before Dr. C. W. Pharr, the prison physician, allowed the body, now a lifeless corpse, to be removed from the chair.

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Scene of Italy's Drive



SCALE OF MILES

The map shows the Doberdo plateau, where five days of furious battle forced the Austrians to abandon their stronghold, Gorizia. Italian aviators made desperate attempts to destroy the railways at the rear of the Austrian lines, especially around Nabresina, to hinder the Austrian retreat.

ECONOMY

Mrs. Clyde Allen and children of Greensfork, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Taylor.

J. O. Ballenger was at Hagerstown Wednesday.

A. W. Swain made a business trip to Richmond Wednesday.

Mrs. Martha Atkinson is reported better.

Ridenour and Howell of Modoc, were here Thursday.

Mrs. Nellie Fenimore of Muncie, is still visiting relatives here.

It is said Mr. Swain, proprietor of Sunflower Park, has bought the Haxton hall.

Thomas Frasier was at Richmond Thursday.

Dr. Small of Liberty, was here Thursday.

Forest Mumbower of Parker, is here visiting relatives.

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\$2.00 grades, now	(3 pair for \$1.00)	25c grade, initial, 3 in box for
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