

**HOLY CROSS MILITARY CHAPLAINS 1995-3**  
**IN WORLD WAR II**

**by**  
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## HOLY CROSS MILITARY CHAPLAINS IN WORLD WAR II

The President of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, Father John F. O'Hara of the Congregation of Holy Cross was notified on December 11, 1939, that he had been named by Pope Pius XII the Bishop of the Titular See of ancient Milasa, and at the same time appointed Auxiliary of the Military Ordinariate in the United States. In Sacred Heart Church on the campus of the university, on January 15, 1940, the Ordinary of the Military Ordinariate and of the Archdiocese of New York, Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, consecrated Bishop O'Hara. Moving to the Chancery Office in New York City, Bishop O'Hara was placed in charge of all Catholic Chaplains in the armed forces. At the time, the Draft Act had already been enacted and as a result the size of the military forces was being greatly expanded to assure the national defense in view of the precarious state of world affairs attributed to the spreading war in Europe.

A first decision of Bishop O'Hara was to ask Father Thomas A. Steiner, the Provincial of the United States Province of Priests and Brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross, to encourage priests of the Province to join the military ordinariate and become chaplains in the armed services. Subsequently between 1941 and 1944 twenty-five Holy Cross priests had enlisted. The distribution by years of enlistment and branches of service is enumerated in Table

I.

TABLE I

YEAR	ARMY	ARMY AIR FORCE	NAVY	CAN. ARMY	R.C.A.F.	TOTAL
1941	3	1	0	0	0	4
1942	5	2	1	2	0	10
1943	2	2	4	0	1	9
1944	1	0	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	11	5	6	2	1	25

The distribution of the twenty-five chaplains by name and relevant dates is compiled in Table II.

TABLE II

## WORLD WAR II HOLY CROSS MILITARY CHAPLAINS

NAME	BIRTH	ORD.	ENLST.	BRANCH	RANK	DISCH.	RANK	DEATH
JOHN O'HARA	5/1/88	1916						8/28/60
JOSEPH BARRY	12/7/02	1933	4/5/41	ARMY	Capt.	12/46	Capt.	9/25/85
EDWARD R. FITZGERALD	7/15/03	1934	1941	ARMY	1stLt.	3/30/62	Col.	1/27/81
GEORGE WELSH	4/18/05	1933	4/16/41	ARMY	Capt.	11/11/46	Capt.	2/7/63
ROBERT WOODWARD	5/3/06	1932	2/27/41	ARMY	1stLt.	7/29/46	Maj.	2/1/81
FRANCIS D. BRIDENSTINE	2/18/09	1937	4/5/42	ARMY	1stLt.	9/14/62	LtCol.	11/20/78
JOSEPH CORCORAN	4/22/07	1934	8/12/42	ARMY	1stLt.	3/29/46	Maj.	5/19/72
PATRICK DUFFY	3/26/08	1935	1942	NAVY		1946		4/13/69

JOHN HARRINGTON	12/22/05	1933	9/3/42	AIR FORCE		3/5/46	Capt.	1/1/67
THOMAS HEWITT	5/26/11	1939	3/10/42	ARMY	1stLt.	1946	Col.	
JOSEPH KMIECIK	2/9/05	1934	7/27/42	AIR FORCE	1stLt.	1946	LtCol.	
JOHN McGEE	1/17/14	1940	1942	CAN.ARMY	Capt.	1946		6/21/91
VINCENT E. MOONEY	11/15/92	1923	9/7/42	ARMY	Capt.	5/14/46	Maj.	7/19/63
EDMUND MURRAY	4/14/07	1938	1942	ARMY	1stLt.	1946	Col.	
ROBERT WAIDE	6/16/05	1937	1942	CAN.ARMY		3/5/46		4/11/66
JOHN T. BIGER	9/27/10	1937	1943	RCAF		1946		10/12/93
FRANCIS BOLAND	1/29/96	1923	1943	NAVY	Capt.	1947	Capt.	12/31/60
JOHN DUPUIS	9/18/08	1935	4/12/43	NAVY	Lt(jg)	1946	Lt(jg)	3/9/86
GERALD FITZGERALD	10/29/94	1921	1943	AIR FORCE	1stLt.	1945	Capt.	1969
HENRY HEINTSKILL	8/13/13	1940	3/10/43	NAVY	Lt(jg)	7/29/46	Lt(jg)	12/24/46
NORMAN JOHNSON	9/17/05	1933	3/5/43	AIR FORCE	1stLt.	7/28/46	Col.	2/3/60
CLEMENT KANE	1/13/00	1935	1/27/43	ARMY	Capt.	5/28/46	Capt.	10/28/84
JAMES E. NORTON	8/20/06	1934	10/5/43	NAVY	Lt(jg)	1946	Lt(sg)	3/2/79
MAURICE POWERS	11/15/05	1937	1943	ARMY	Capt.	1954	LtCol.	8/3/86
JOHN J. BURKE	12/28/03	1936	5/1944	NAVY	Lt(sg)	1946	Lt(sg)	2/16/57
THOMAS P. JONES	8/18/08	1935	10/3/44	ARMY	Capt.	8/18/46	Capt.	7/15/81

It seems fitting to note that three Holy Cross priests served in Bishop O'Hara's Chancery Office during the war: Father Harry Stegman and Father Joseph Miller, newly ordained, as secretaries, and Father Gerald Fitzgerald, formerly a secular priest in the Boston Archdiocese, as a consultant from 1941 to July, 1943.

The first of the four priests who enlisted in 1941 was Father Robert W. Woodward.

Commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the Army on January 4, 1941, he soon saw active duty as a regimental and Harbor Defense chaplain from 1941 to 1944 and then in the Eastern Command as Supervisor and Administrator of the activities of about three hundred chaplains from October 1944 to April 1946. The Eastern Command comprised the tactical defense of forty States, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Cuba, Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland and Iceland. Promoted to Captain in 1941 and to Major in 1945, Woodward was discharged in 1946 and returned to the Philosophy faculty at the University of Notre Dame. He was instrumental in the installation of an Army ROTC unit at the university in 1951. After retirement, he resided at Holy Cross House where he died on February 1, 1981.

A second Holy Cross priest, Father Edward R. Fitzgerald, a member of the Holy Cross Mission Band at Notre Dame, enlisted in 1941. Commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the Army on January 17, 1941, he saw active service on March 22, 1941, at the Army Induction Center at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Following hospital duty as a chaplain in Iceland in 1942 and 1943, he was assigned to the 9th Air Force in England. After service in the 9th Troop Carrier and 53rd Troop Carrier Commands, he moved to the 1st Allied Airborne Army in September 1944 and became the Berlin District Chaplain when his outfit moved to Berlin in 1945. After the war, Fitzgerald transferred to the Air Corps until he retired from the military in 1962. He had advanced to Captain in 1943, to Major in 1945, to Lieutenant Colonel in 1947 and finally to full Colonel in 1957. During the years after 1945, he served on air bases in Texas, Missouri, Mississippi, Illinois and even in Spain. After discharge on March 30, 1962, he returned to the Holy Cross Mission Band. In declining health by 1977 and after two years recuperating in Florida, he moved to Holy Cross House, where he died on January 27, 1981. In the eulogy at

his funeral, Father Bill Schreiner, a fellow member of the Mission Band, told a story of Father Fitzgerald's abiding sense of good humor. In Iceland during the war, he was ordered to build a chapel. He succeeded admirably by hook and crook, pilfering materials from various Army resources. By way of atonement and with a straight face, he named his chapel in honor of St. Dismas, the good thief.

A third enlistee in 1941 was Father Joseph Barry, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Church in South Bend, Indiana. Commissioned a Captain in the Army on April 5, 1941, he served as chaplain in the 157th Regiment in the 45th Army Division. In the Notre Dame Alumni Magazine it was reported that "he went overseas in June 1943 and marched through Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, southern France, to Germany." It was also reported in a Syracuse, New York, newspaper, Barry's hometown, that "when a company in his battalion suffered heavy casualties near San Stefano in Sicily, Chaplain Barry disregarded intense fire to aid and comfort the wounded and administered last rites to the dying." It was on this occasion that Joe was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

One of Joe's gruesome experiences during the war occurred in the liberation of a concentration camp in Germany. Its name, I am sorry to say, I have forgotten. As the regiment was approaching the camp, on the railroad by the road stood a string of coal cars. Upon inspection it was found that they were filled with the corpses of naked, skeleton-like dead men. The silence that fell on the soldiers was soon dispelled as they were engaged in fighting to free the camp. After its liberation, the soldiers became stultified as they stood mute and immobile like statues, Joe included, watching the freed captives turn loose the savage guard dogs and gleefully cheer them on to tear captured prison guards nearby to pieces.

I think you will agree that the name of the concentration camp Joe told me about almost fifty years ago was at Dachau, Germany, after I read an excerpt from an article entitled "Freeing the Survivors" in U.S. News and World Report, dated April 3, 1995. It reads: "At Dachau in beautiful Bavaria a handful of incensed Americans joined in the revenge killing directly. Elements of two divisions, the 45th and the 42nd, arrived almost simultaneously. On the perimeter, the G.I.s found two thousand bodies in forty open freight cars. A hideous, decomposing tangle of dead had been evacuated from Buckenwald a month earlier and raked by machine gun fire on the train, the survivors left to suffocate, starve or die of exposure. The liberators stared disbelievingly and retched. Many wept with fury."

After his discharge from the Army in December of 1946, Father Barry became the Prefect of Discipline at the University of Notre Dame for a short while. After that he served as chaplain at several high schools conducted by the Holy Cross Brothers, including Hoban High School in Akron, Ohio. Near eighty years of age, Joe retired to Holy Cross House and died there peacefully on September 25, 1985.

The fourth and last priest to enlist in 1941 was Father George Welsh from the History faculty at Notre Dame. Commissioned on April 16, 1941, a Captain in the Army, he began active service in July as battalion and regimental chaplain. For sixteen months he was stationed on the island of St. Lucia in the British West Indies and then overseas for two more years in Northern Ireland and in France. Most of his duties were in Army hospitals. In November 1946 he was discharged and returned to the United States to take part in parochial work. After several pastorates, he had been chaplain for St. Charles Boys Home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for less than four months when in the sacristy after Mass on the morning of February 7, 1963,



he collapsed and died of a heart attack. At a convivial gathering with a few friends at Notre Dame not long after the war, Scotty, as Father Welsh was nicknamed because he had been born in Scotland, was heard to say that his deadliest battle had been fought on the island of St. Lucia fighting mosquitoes and more mosquitoes.

In the course of events, on December 8, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan after its surprise attack on the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. On December 11, 1941, the United States declared war on Germany and Italy after they declared war on the United States. During the year 1942, ten Holy Cross priests became military chaplains: five in the American Army, two in the Army Air Force, one in the American Navy and two in the Canadian Army.

Father Francis Donulus Bridenstine on the faculty at the University of Portland was one of the five in the Army. Commissioned a 1st Lieutenant he began active duty on April 5, 1942, with the 7th Infantry Division Artillery. It fought on Attu, Kwajalein, Lyete and Okinawa. He returned to the United States in 1945 but remained in the Army and again served overseas in Japan. Assigned to the IX Corps Headquarters, he saw action in the Korean War. By 1954 he attained the rank of Lt. Colonel. Near the end of his twenty years service, he suffered a stroke and was permanently disabled and discharged from the Army on September 14, 1962. Unable to talk except to say "two-two", he spent his last years in Holy Cross House and died there on November 10, 1978. Before the war, Don, as Father Bridenstine was always called in the seminary, had his picture in the Portland Oregonian newspaper when it was revealed that he held the first number picked in the Draft -- number 158. Although exempt from the draft as a clergyman, Don enlisted as a chaplain.



Father John J. Harrington enlisted in the Army Air Corps and began active duty September 3, 1942. He had a leave of absence from his mission in India and at Father Steiner's suggestion became a chaplain when he couldn't arrange transportation back to India because of the war. The information on his military service is scant in the Archives Center. All we know is that he received the Asiatic Pacific Theater medal and was discharged on March 5, 1946, as a Captain. After the war, he returned to the Bengal Missions and then served as Superior of the Foreign Mission Seminary in Washington, D.C., from 1958 to 1964. Thereafter he became a member of the Uganda Mission and died there on January 1, 1967.

Father Joseph Corcoran from the faculty of the University of Notre Dame was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the Chaplain Corps on August 12, 1942, and saw active service in the Army beginning on September 20, 1942, with the 32nd Infantry Regiment in the 7th Infantry Division. He was engaged in conflict in the Central Pacific, in the liberation of the southern Philippines and in the capture of the Ryukyus. He was discharged on March 25, 1946, as a Major. After the war he took part in pastoral ministry until he retired in ill health to Holy Cross House where he died on May 19, 1972.

Father Thomas Edward Hewitt, always known as "Ed" among community members, another member of the Holy Cross Mission Band at Notre Dame, enlisted in the Chaplains Corps on March 3, 1942, and was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant. He was assigned to the 125th Infantry and saw action in the Pacific Theater. When the Air Force became a separate military branch in 1947, he transferred to the Air Corps. A supervisory chaplain during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, he retired with the rank of full Colonel in 1970. He resides in San Antonio, Texas. One of Ed's stories concerned a Japanese priest who boarded the ship in Tokyo Bay on

which Ed was quartered after the war had just ended. The Japanese priest had been away from Hiroshima when it was bombed and had no parish left. They spoke in Latin and had to laugh trying to say "Atom Bomb" in Latin. The best the Japanese priest could do was to throw up his arms in a feigned shout. He asked if Ed could help him with materials to say Mass. He went away rejoicing when Ed gave him a Mass kit.

Father Vincent E. Mooney, born on November 15, 1892, was the eldest Holy Cross priest to become a chaplain in World War II. He took leave of his pastorate in Columbus, Ohio, was commissioned a Captain in the Chaplain Corps on September 7, 1942 and assigned to the 9th Armored Group. After several months in training, he went overseas with the Group for twenty-three more months. In the meanwhile he advanced to Major before he retired on May 14, 1946. In parish work again after the war, he was incardinated in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, in October 1949. He died of a heart attack while visiting his sister in South Bend, Indiana, on July 19, 1963, and at his own request is buried in the Community Cemetery at Notre Dame.

Father Edmund Murray was the fifth Holy Cross priest to become a chaplain in the Army in 1942. Commissioned a Lieutenant he was attached to the 104th Army Division, nicknamed the "Timberwolf" Division. His division, a part of the British corps, suffered heavy casualties at Aachen and was transferred to the United States 1st Army. It fought across Germany until at the close of the war, it met the Russian Allied Army on the Elbe River on the eastern boundary of Germany. By that time Ed had risen to the rank of a full Colonel. On inactive service after 1946, he obtained a PhD degree in Irish history at the University of Dublin. He retired from the Army in 1972 and taught Irish history at the University of Notre Dame. In

declining health he retired to Holy Cross House and still lives there in 1995.

The parish in northern Poland entrusted in the early 1930s to the Congregation of Holy Cross was closed when the German Army at the beginning of World War II invaded Poland from the west and the Russian Army invaded Poland from the east. The few Holy Cross religious in the parish returned by southern Europe to the United States. Among them was Father Joseph Kmiecik. After pastoral work in Texas, he enlisted in the Chaplain Corps and was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the Army on July 27, 1942. He saw service with an Army support group attached to the 11th Air Force on Shemya Island, the western-most location of an Air Force base in the Aleutian Islands, as Joe says in an unpublished memoir, "Exactly 1700 miles from Tokyo and 1700 miles from Anchorage, Alaska." After recapturing the islands of Attu and Kiska, the Army and the Air Force combined to interdict the Japanese military from invading the western coast of North America. Joe had risen in rank to Major before he retired to inactive status in 1946. In 1947 he transferred to the Air Force when it became independent of the Army and was recalled to active duty in the Korean War. Then after two years in Korea, seven years in Japan and three more in England, he retired from the Air Force in 1962. By that time he had become a Lieutenant Colonel. Once more active in pastoral work in Texas, he was crippled in an auto accident and had to learn to walk again. Attending a small vegetable garden at Holy Cross House, he finally gave that up in 1994, but still remains hale and hearty at the age of 90.

Father Robert Waide a member of the Eastern Mission Band stationed at North Easton, Massachusetts, enlisted as a chaplain in the Canadian Army in 1942. He had come to Holy Cross Seminary in 1924 from Canada. Expecting to become a foreign missionary in India, at

the time a British possession, he retained his British citizenship and made his theological studies at the Bengalese Foreign Mission Seminary in Washington, D.C. After ordination in 1937 he was assigned to the Mission Band. The Canadian Army in reply to an inquiry from the Eastern Province Archives Center in 1992 about Fr. Waide's military record replied on a form entitled "Certificate of Service" that he was "appointed to commissioned rank on February 12, 1942, served in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Central Mediterranean Area and Continental Europe and was 'struck off the strength' on March 5, 1946." After the war he was chaplain at the Holy Cross Brothers High School in California. In poor health he retired to Holy Cross House and died there April 11, 1966. It should be remembered that Bob was an outstanding preacher which may explain why he never got to India. He was always proud of the fact that he was with the Canadian troops who helped to storm and capture the Abbey of Monte Cassino in Italy.

Father John McGee, a Canadian citizen intending to go to India as a missionary, retained British citizenship and studied at the Bengalese Foreign Mission Seminary after the example of Father Waide. Ordained in 1940, however, while India was already at war, he remained in the United States. Born on January 17, 1914, he was the youngest Holy Cross priest to be a military chaplain during the War. His "Certificate of Service" states he enlisted in the Canadian army as an honorary Captain on February 9, 1942. His theater of service included Canada, Labrador, Britain and Northwest Europe. He was discharged on April 8, 1946. Later on, listing his assignments after ordination, Father McGee noted that he was in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1951 until 1959. There is nothing on file in the Eastern Province Archives about that military service. After 1959 he taught at Stonehill College in Massachusetts, did research in the Province of Quebec and parish duty in Ontario. He retired in 1984 and, a member of the

Eastern Province of Holy Cross Priests, died in Canada on June 21, 1991.

The information in the Province Archives Center about Father Patrick Duffy's military records comes from excerpts of letters he wrote to Father Thomas Steiner, the provincial. On March 2, 1944, writing from a tent in a jungle, he said that he enlisted in the Navy on October 16, 1942. In another excerpt he said he served in New Caledonia and Australia and from Sampson, New York, he wrote that he expected to retire from the Navy soon after December 19, 1945. A member of the Eastern Province, Father Duffy died on April 13, 1969. After the war in 1947, I met Father John Wallace in Epiphany Parish in New York City. He had retired from the Navy in 1946. He asked me as a Holy Cross priest if I knew Pat Duffy. After my affirmation, he said he met Pat at Sampson, New York, where Navy personnel were being registered before mustering out of the service. Four Catholic priest chaplains were still on duty there but also waiting to be retired, including Commander Frank McKeon also a New York priest charged with the supervision of Fathers Wallace and Duffy and a priest chaplain from the Midwest. Father Wallace said, "One morning I read in the newspaper that Father Arnold, the head of the Chaplain's Corps in Washington, was going to be consecrated a Bishop in New York City in about a month. I saw a chance to get down to the city and had a friend send me an invitation to attend signed, so it said, by Father Arnold. I showed it to the officer in command of the base who cordially gave me permission to attend provided Commander McKeon was willing. When I showed the telegram to my good friend Commander McKeon, he read the invitation to be primus acolythus, laughed and said he and Duffy would fill in for me. A few days later McKeon called my attention to a telegram he received from Father Arnold inviting him to be cerofarius at the consecration. I laughed and said, "incense bearer" -- we can go



together.' When the day came for us to leave and we were walking down the aisle in a passenger coach, whom do we meet coming from the opposite end of the car but a Navy officer. It was Pat Duffy. He showed us a telegram from Father Arnold inviting him to be secundus acolythus and said the fourth priest would fill in for all of us. In New York, of course, the three of us, the first acolyte, the incense bearer and the second acolyte went our separate ways." "By the way," I said to Father Wallace as he ended his story, "Your good friend Commander McKeon is also a very good friend of mine. He was Deacon at my first solemn Mass after ordination in 1939. He is a cousin on my mother's side."

During the year 1943 nine Holy Cross priests became military chaplains: two in the Army, two in the Army Air Force, four in the Navy and one in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Father Gerald Fitzgerald remained on Bishop O'Hara's staff at the Chancery in New York until he enlisted in the Chaplain's Corps in August 1943. Commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Army Air Force he served in the Pacific Theater, advanced to the rank of Captain on February 22, 1944, and was discharged on October 7, 1945. This information comes from excerpts in letters Father Fitzgerald wrote to Father Thomas Steiner. After the war, he founded a new religious congregation entitled the Servants of the Paraclete dedicated to the rehabilitation of mentally disturbed clerics. He was its first Superior General in Rome, Italy, and died there in 1969.

Father John Biger prior to ordination in 1937 took his philosophy and theology studies in Paris, France, and became a teacher of French at the University of Notre Dame. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as a chaplain in 1943 where his knowledge of the French language would be of advantage. Of his military record there are no facts on file. It is

remembered, however, that he visited Notre Dame, while in service, dressed in a khaki uniform, with a Roman collar and carrying a swagger stick. He was out of the Air Force in 1946 and began to teach French, this time at the University of Portland. In declining health, he retired to Holy Cross House in 1990 and died there on October 12, 1993.

In 1943, Father Clement Kane, from the Political Science faculty at the University of Portland, became an Army chaplain. Commissioned on January 27, 1943, he served as a Captain in Army hospitals in the United States. Retired from the service on May 28, 1946, he taught political science again at the University of Portland and in 1959 transferred to the same department at the University of Notre Dame. He was next assigned to pastoral work after which in declining health he retired in 1967 to Holy Cross House and died there on October 28, 1984, at the age of 84.

The other Holy Cross priest who became a chaplain in the Army in 1943 was Father Maurice Powers, a member of the Holy Cross Mission Band at Notre Dame. Commissioned a Captain on November 15, 1943, he saw active duty with the 101st Cavalry Division in the 7th Army. It drove across France in tanks along the Marne and Mosette rivers. The first contingent to cross the Siegfried Line, it passed through Munich and on to Berlin. There, Father Powers was at the Headquarters Command in the Office of Military Government for Germany. He remained in the Army after the war, having risen to the rank of Major. He was invalided with a stroke and discharged from the service in 1954 by that time a Lieutenant Colonel. He resided in Holy Cross House until his death on August 3, 1986.

Another Holy Cross priest who became a chaplain in the Army Air Force was Father Norman Johnson. A member of the English faculty at the University of Notre Dame, he was



commissioned a Captain on March 5, 1943, and served with the 4th Combat Cargo Group in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. Returned to an inactive status in 1946 but recalled to active duty in 1952, he served in various posts until 1958 by that time a full Colonel. He succumbed after a long illness and died at Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 2, 1960. While in the Air Force after the war, he was the author of several Air Force Character Formation Manuals including "Living and Leadership" published in 1956.

Father Frank Boland was one of the four Holy Cross priests who became a chaplain in the Navy in 1943. Commissioned a Captain, he saw action overseas in the late stages of the war on an attack transport. Afterwards in 1946, he became a chaplain at the Veteran's Hospital on East 23rd Street in New York City. Returned to inactive duty in 1947, he filled the important post of President of Stonehill College in Massachusetts. Called back to active duty in the Army in the 1950s he served at the same Veteran's Hospital on East 23rd Street in New York. Suffering a heart attack there, he died on December 31, the last day of the year 1960.

Another Holy Cross priest who became a Navy chaplain in 1943 was Father John M. Dupuis, a member of the Philosophy faculty at the University of Notre Dame. Commissioned a Lieutenant (j.g.) on April 8, 1943, he was assigned to the 4th Marine Division. It became possible to follow the exploits of the 4th Division in the daily newspaper as it captured island after island in the Marshall Islands until suddenly it fell out of the paper altogether. After the war I asked Father Dupuis after he returned in 1946 what happened. He replied simply, "The 4th Division left Pearl Harbor in fourteen ships. When relieved of our mission we returned to Pearl Harbor in four ships. There was hardly anyone left." John returned to the faculty at Notre Dame after the war until in weakened health, he retired to Holy Cross House and died on March

9, 1986.

A third Holy Cross priest who enlisted as a chaplain in the Navy in 1943 was Father Henry Heintskill. Commissioned a Lieutenant (j.g.) on March 10, 1943, he saw active service in England, in the liberation of the Philippine Islands and in the Asiatic Theater. He retired on July 29, 1946. The priest who asked me if I knew Pat Duffy also asked me if I knew Father Heintskill. When I said, "Yes, he was ordained in 1940, the year after I was," he went on to say, "I had great admiration for him when we both served as chaplains in a vets' hospital in London. He was devoted to duty, despite the daily grind in that hospital. How is he anyway?" He was greatly surprised when I replied, "Not more than four months after he was mustered out of the Navy in 1946, he died of cancer on December 12, 1946."

The fourth man who enlisted as a Navy chaplain in 1943 was Father James Norton, a teacher of Economics on the faculty of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Commissioned a Lieutenant (j.g.) on October 5, 1943, he served with the Fleet Marine Force and overseas for fourteen months with the U.S. Marine Aircraft, Group 45 at Ulithi Atoll and in the Western Pacific. Retired with the rank of Lieutenant (s.g.) in 1946, he returned to administration assignments at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Portland. In 1972 he became an advisor at the Holy Cross Brothers High School in Phoenix, Arizona. In ill health, he retired to Holy Cross House and died there on March 2, 1979.

There were two Holy Cross priests who became chaplains in 1944, Father John J. Burke in the Navy and Father Thomas Jones in the Army. Father Burke, the Prefect of Discipline at the University of Notre Dame, after considerable correspondence with religious and administrative superiors, was allowed to become a chaplain. Commissioned a Lieutenant (s.g.)

in May 1944 in the Navy he served on the U.S.S. *Pennsylvania*, a battleship, and saw action on Wake Island, Saipan and Okinawa in 1945. Parked at the end of an island anticipating the invasion of Japan, the ship was surprised by a Kamikaze plane that sneaked around the end of the island and inflicted heavy damage to the aft of the *Pennsylvania* killing eighteen men and wounding numerous personnel, Father Burke wrote the provincial. Limping off to Guam for repairs it went on as the war was ending and weeks later put in at the Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton, Washington. In 1950 Father Burke was appointed Financial Vice-President at the University of Notre Dame. Granted leave of absence to recover his declining health in Arizona, he returned to Notre Dame after two years. But again in failing health, he retired to Holy Cross House and died there on February 2, 1957.

The other Holy Cross priest who became a chaplain in 1944 was Father Thomas Jones from the History faculty at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Commissioned a Captain in the Army on October 3, 1944, he was assigned to the 315th General Hospital Battalion in training at Fort Lewis, Washington, and moved with it overseas in April 1945 to the Philippine Islands in hospitals being made ready to treat casualties from the invasion of Japan. Since that did not happen, most members of the 315th were sent back to the United States. Captain Jones was discharged on August 18, 1946. He continued his teaching career at the University of Portland. After developing a painful arthritic condition in the early 1960s, he first became a chaplain to the Brothers at a high school in California and, getting no better, retired in 1970 to recover his health in Phoenix, Arizona. Still no better he retired to Holy Cross House and died there on July 15, 1981. Sometime before his death Father Jones wrote that he had kept in touch with 315th people for thirty-one years by way of newsletters and pictures of their reunions.

Incidentally I don't think it will be amiss to say something that I have thought about a great deal. On the graves of Brothers in the local Community Cemetery who had been soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War there are government markers. Also on the graves of priests who had been military chaplains in the Civil War are government markers. On the graves, too, of priests who were military chaplains in World War I are government markers. But on some of the graves of priests who were military chaplains in World War II and on the graves of soldiers who became Holy Cross priests or Holy Cross Brothers after World War II, there are no government markers. For some reason I have never heard explained and with the permission of someone whom I have never been able to find out, the practice of placing government markers on the graves of war veterans came to an end. I think it was a very sad mistake. I think it should be up to the individual entitled to a marker to decide whether or not he wants one on his grave.

In conclusion, it will be recalled that it was fifty years ago when Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 8, 1945. Earlier on September 3, 1943, Italy had surrendered, also, unconditionally. Japan stopped fighting on August 14, 1945, and formally surrendered on September 2, 1945.

Finally, the last word on the twenty-five Holy Cross chaplains in World War II has yet to be spoken. In 1995, three still survive: Father Ed Murray in Holy Cross House, unhappily a victim of Alzheimer's disease, Father Ed Hewitt with relatives in Texas, and Father Joe Kmiecik in Holy Cross House, both relatively in good health in their old age.