

TO: Father Burke August 31, 1929.
FROM: Mr. D. J. Ryan, Bureau of Historical Records.
SUBJECT: 1929 Report of the Bureau of Historical Records.

In March, 1929 the Bureau of Historical Records moved its offices and materials to the fire-proof building provided for the safe keeping of the records. All records pertaining to the World War data are now housed in these quarters with the exception of the war time files of Catholic publications which will require special steel racks and facings therefor. A pictorial exhibit of the work of the National Catholic War Council has been started in the entrance hall of the Records Building.

The Bureau prepared a sixteen page pamphlet explaining the purposes of the compilation and the work incident to the collection of facts on the Catholic contribution to the national energies during the World War period. Suggested methods and a catalogue of sources were included for the benefit of committees of the lay organizations that are developing the work locally. Salient facts concerning the N.C.W.C. as a whole were also presented in this work guide.

Several thousand copies have been distributed by the N.C.C.M. and N.C.C.W. The Bureau has noted a pleasing comment on this guide from interested committees as well as organizations and commissions engaged with World War records. The editor of The Ecclesiastical Review requested an article on the work of the Bureau after noting the pamphlet on the N.C.W.C. World War Records.

Since December, 1928, the Bureau has supplied to the Feature Service of the N.C.W.C. Press Department a weekly feature on outstanding Catholic heroes of the World War. These have provoked an interest in the collection. Parents, ex-service men, chaplains and others have presented facts of great value to the collection after noting the accuracy of statements released in these feature articles.

Federal legislation enacted March 2, 1929 allows the Mothers and widows of the A.E.F. dead now buried overseas to visit the American cemeteries on invitation and at the expense of the Government. The task of reaching the Mothers and widows of these soldiers is admitted to be difficult in the majority of cases. The Society of American War Mothers (World War) have asked the cooperation of the N.C.W.C. through this Bureau in locating Catholic Mothers. The office of the Quarter-Master Corps in charge of cemeteries has stated they will rely on the help our records may give as they have exhausted their possibilities in reaching the Gold Star Mothers through the emergency addresses presented by the soldier at the time of the war.

Active cooperation with the effort of the Government in regard to these pilgrimages will allow another public recognition of the N.C.W.C. war data; and the effectiveness of the local committees of the lay organizations interested in records and incidental matters. It will also develop additional records of Catholics buried in these cemeteries. Cooperation with the American War Mothers, although we have

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NCWC-OGS Box 65, Folder 25
Annual Reports

7800 Annual Report
September 15, 1930.

TO: Father Burke
FROM: Bureau of Historical Records.
SUBJECT: 1930 Report

file 1930

The general features of the work of the Bureau of Historical Records during the past year included card typing and file work on the 804,437 available records; compiling and publishing lists of Gold Star Mothers and Widows who were to visit graves of Catholic soldiers overseas; checking available state war service publications with Catholic records; supplying data on requests for information on Catholic war work and the preparation of news and feature items for the N.C.W.C. News Service and the N.C.W.C. Review.

The most consequential result attained for the general work, was very likely, through an article, "American Catholic World War Records--Collection and Preservation", prepared by this office and published in the June, 1930, "Ecclesiastical Review". The Catholic press of the country carried a reference to the article. A summary also appeared in "La Croix" and "L'Osservatore Romano". Its listing in readers' guides and historical magazines, under their periodical literature sections will refer many to a convenient source of information on Catholics in the World War. We notice that local Catholic radio offerings and speakers at Catholic gatherings still use statements concerning Catholic war activities which can only be substantiated in part.

Our staff's principal work is on the typing and filing of record cards. A consistent endeavor to dispatch this task is maintained. Approximately 320,000 are now in the general card file. Two file operators and one typist are employed in this work as well as a considerable part of the time of a fourth worker who handles the correspondence and other stenographic work for the office. Frequent interruptions, however, are suffered in order to cover incidental phases of the general work which in our judgement appear to be imperative and of an immediate value to the Catholic war records collection and the work of the N.C.W.C.

The Catholic war records received prominent mention through items in connection with the Gold Star Pilgrimages. The N.C.W.C. News Service released a general story with a list of 740 Catholic Gold Star Pilgrims as well as the grave record of soldiers that these Pilgrims were to visit, a few days after the initial list of eligibles was available from the Government Printing Office. At that time mention was also made of 840 mothers and widows who declined the invitation of the Government. As each sailing list of a Gold Star Pilgrimage was available, a release, naming the Catholics thereon was prepared for the News Service. The Gold Star Pilgrimages will continue in 1931 and 1932. Mrs. Harrison, Paris employee of the N.C.W.C. attended the social functions tendered the Gold Star Pilgrims on invitation of the commanding officer, American Graves Registration Service, Paris Office.

The Bureau has continued to supply the N.C.W.C. News Service weekly articles for the "Catholic Heroes of the World War" feature.

File Copy
Executive Office
N.C.W.C.

[Sept. 15, 1930]

These items are prepared carefully as to facts, connection with current news when possible and dignity of the act narrated. Selection of the men mentioned is guided so as the series may deal with Catholic Heroes from every state and diocese, if possible. Among the 98 stories furnished, forty-six states and the District of Columbia have been represented.

A check of the Massachusetts Gold Star Record with available Catholic records show that we have definite proof that 2,186 cases of the 5,777 set out in the state record are of Catholics. We have carried this item as far as we can from available records. There will be a few increases developed by inquiry.

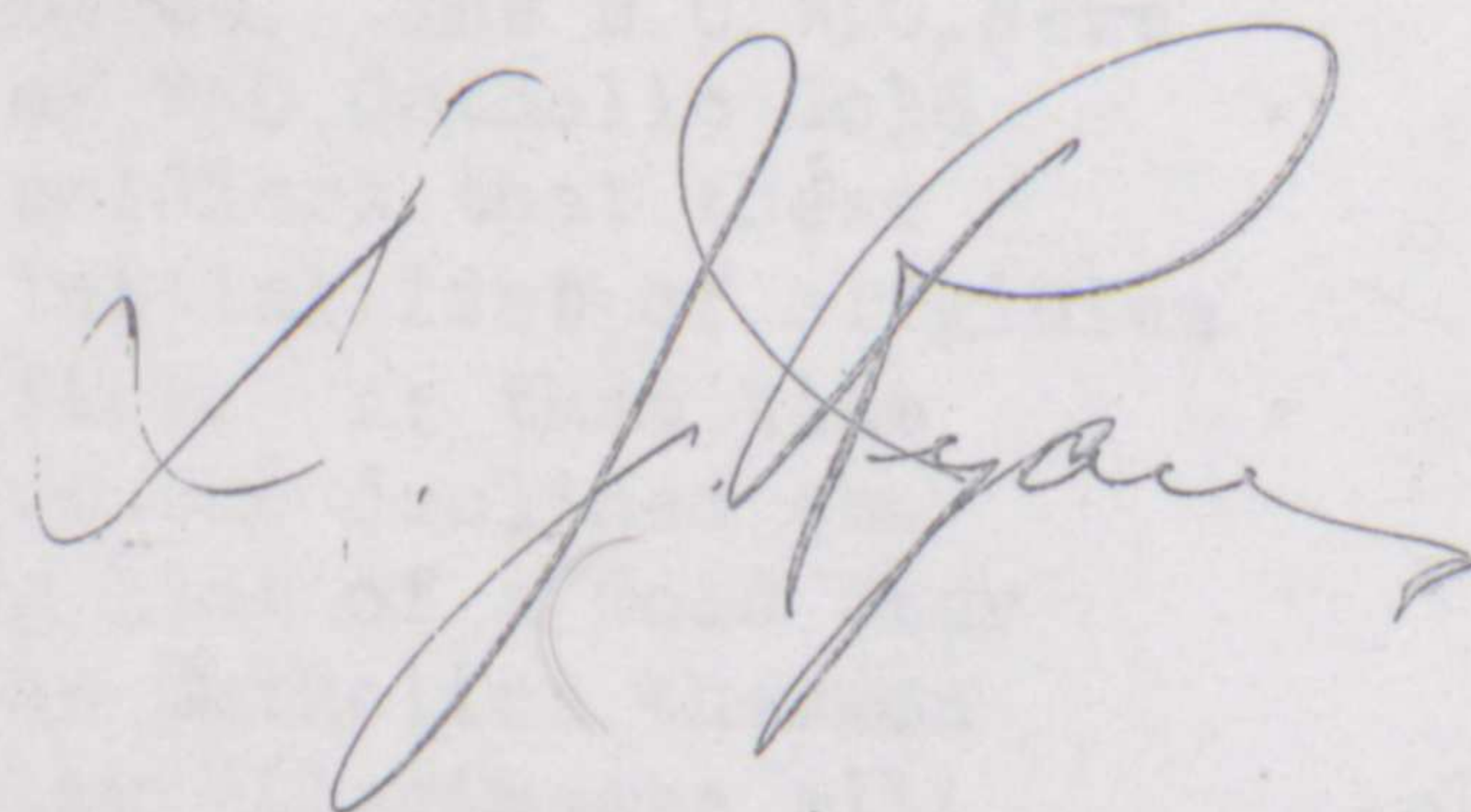
The death casualty records of Catholics in the A.E.F. have developed the following summaries as to disposition of bodies.

In Listed Graves Among the Overseas Cemeteries-	4685
Unlocated or in Graves of Unknown	409
Buried at Sea.	44
Shipped to Other Countries at Request of Relatives	100
Returned to U.S.	6167

A total of "Buried in Russia" formerly itemized, was cleared by the return of the bodies to the United States last autumn. We were in a position to give the News Service several items on the return of bodies from Russia. The totals as to the disposition of bodies change frequently as new graves develop from our "Trouble Cases" and results of inquiries on many likely cases appearing in the Government file, not reported to us as Catholics.

The N.C.W.C. participated in the overseas Memorial Day exercises by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the French Unknown at the time of the public ceremony and also in the Suresnes American Cemetery. The acknowledgement and thanks for these acts were received from the American Graves Registration Service.

Requests for information from these files range from the details of a particular individual's military service to materials for public addresses, histories of the war work of Catholic societies and summaries of Catholic war work in general.



NCWC-OGS Box 66, Folder 1
Annual Reports

A check of the handwritten file card record with available
initials records shows that as late as 1954, 1955 cases
of the 5,775 and in the year record of 1954, we have
carried this item as far as we can from available records. There will
be a few increases during the year.

The 1954 annual report of 1954 is in the A.E.A. have
changed the following numbers as to disposition of bodies.

4085	In 1954, 4085 bodies were disposed of.
409	Unaccounted for in 1954.
44	Returned to U.S.A.
400	Returned to U.S.A.
4187	Returned to U.S.A.

A total of 4085 bodies were disposed of, as shown by the
return of the bodies to the United States. We were in
a position to give the bodies to the United States on the return of
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National Catholic Welfare Conference

MOST REV. EDWARD J. HANNA, D.D.
CHAIRMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
REV. JOHN J. BURKE, C.S.P., GENERAL SECRETARY



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: Father Burke, General Secretary
From: Bureau of Historical Records
Subject: 1931 Report as of August 1, 1931.

Summary:

The Bureau of Historical Records has in the past year advanced the availability of the patriotic record of Catholics in the life of the nation. The World War collection, immediately in hand, has been improved in lay-out, accessibility and in use value to the general work of the N.C.W.C. Convenient summary statements of facts from the N.C.W.C. war records have been prepared for and published in special yearbooks, almanacs and diocesan souvenir records. The appearance of these tend to guard against the use of poorly considered statements on the part of writers and orators who sometime abuse, by over statement, the participation of Catholic citizens in the World War.

World War personnel records total 804,569.

Of the several classifications the N.C.W.C. World War Records the military and naval personnel data continue to be the most impressive in the public mind and constitutes the greatest task in the work. The Catholic population at the time of the war was 16.94% of the total population of the U.S. This percent of the troops levied from the 48 states and the District of Columbia gives 784,320 as a representative measurement of personnel from the Catholic population. The available 804,569 shows a representation of 17.15% of the troops from continental U.S.

572,298 records entered in general alphabetical file.

The principal work of our staff during the past year has been on the development of a general alphabetical file of these World War records. This effort involves typing cards from parish lists varying in length, legibility and arrangement and the filing of these cards. There are 572,298 cards filed. At the time of our last annual report, there were 320,000. One file operator and one typist are constantly engaged with this work. For a period of eight months of the year, we had another worker whose time was divided between the typing and filing. The release of this worker was necessitated by the lack of sufficient funds to provide equipment and maintain the worker as the volume developed.

Gold Star Pilgrimages and Memorial Day ceremonies

Continuing a custom inaugurated during 1930 this Bureau has released through the N.C.W.C. News Service a list of Catholic Gold Star mothers and widows on each pilgrimage sent by the Government to the overseas cemeteries.

In Paris, Mrs. Harrison attended the receptions and functions that were given the Gold Star mothers and widows at the invitation of the commanding officer of the American Graves Registration Service. Mrs. Harrison also maintained the point that a priest should be at these receptions among the other clergy. The interest of this staff in the Gold Star Pilgrimages has reflected favorably on our work and brought the collection of war data to many, particularly through comment of the American War Mothers.

The N.C.W.C. was thanked by the American Graves Registration Service for participating in the Paris Memorial Day exercises. Mrs. Harrison executed this representation the report of which appeared in the N.C.W.C. News Service and the July issue of the N.C.W.C. Review.

Decorations and awards to Catholics for war service.

A forceful classification of the Catholic records will be that pertaining to Catholics honored by our Government for gallantry in action or meritorious service. This particular classification was commenced during the past year. We are hopeful of its rapid development as the study continues.

For army service there have been 7,442 awards to 7,379 individuals. Of these, 92 were Medals of Honor. Of the 92 Medal of Honor men, the Catholic records carry mention of 15. There have been 6,015 Distinguished Service Crosses awarded. Catholic records now have 486 cases of D.S.C. awards. There have been 1,335 Distinguished Service Medals awarded. There are 49 Catholics listed to date who received the D.S.M. award. The total American awards to Catholics as listed to date is 550. This, however, should be 1,250 before releases are allowed.

Special hero features released weekly.

A special feature entitled, "Catholic Heroes of the World War" is supplied to the N.C.W.C. Press Department each week gratis. Many new cases of Catholics decorated for gallantry not otherwise reported to the collection have been brought to our attention by readers of the series. One hundred and forty-one stories have been released in this series. Each state, and all but seven dioceses have been represented by at least one Catholic hero. As yet the records from these seven dioceses do not show a decorated soldier.

NEW - UGS Box 125, Folder 3
Hist Recs

To: Father Burke, General Secretary
From: Bureau of Historical Records
Subject: Report, 1932.

File
176

The Bureau of Historical Records adjusted its costs from \$13,000 to \$7,200 per annum, a curtailment of approximately 45 percent, during the past year. The personnel has been reduced from five to two. The major work, at present, is the identification of reported records with official records and the acquisition of detailed military and naval data therefrom. A statement of status is attached.

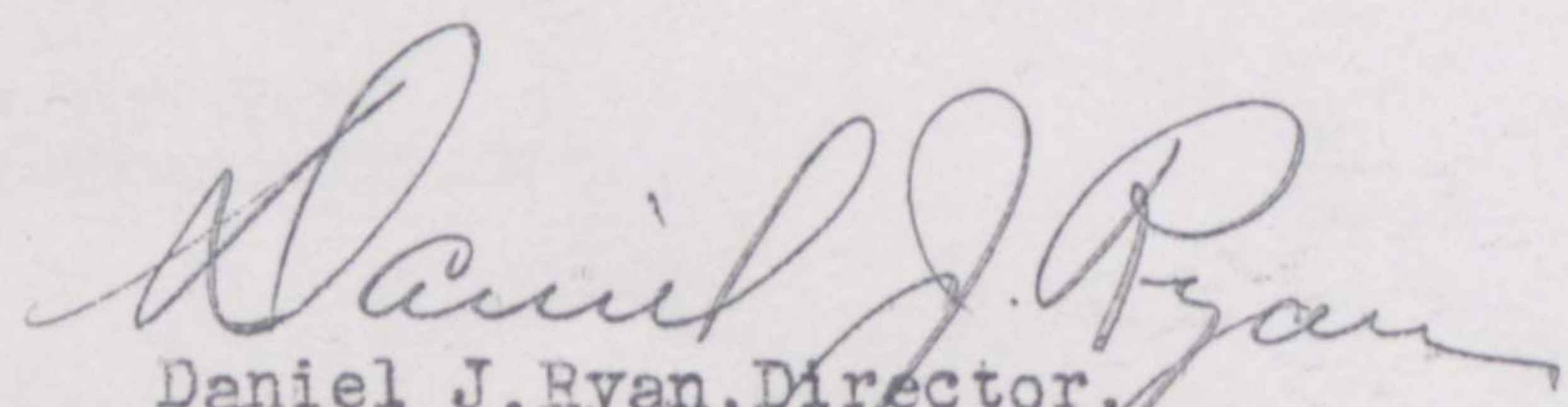
The work of typing and filing available records in a general alphabetical file was brought to a total of 630,000 as against 572,298 filed at the time of the 1931 Report. Enclosed steel shelving was installed in the Vault Room of the Annex Building for the war period files of the Catholic Press and other cumbersome source material pertinent to the war data formerly stored in the attic of the 1312 Building.

Work on the death casualty records of Catholics, decorations and awards to Catholics and pictorial records from the U.S. Signal Corps files commands the constant attention of the Bureau. These items demand careful proof which absorbs much time and labor.

Requests for information on phases of Catholic war work, questions on facts appearing in the Catholic Press and similar queries arising among the headquarters offices of the N.C.W.C. are handled in considerable volume by the Bureau. Correspondence with and statements for committees of lay organizations interested in the further development of the Catholic records are also important items which the limited staff of the Bureau endeavors to handle.

Special articles in connection with the Yorktown Sesquicentennial and the George Washington Bicentennial were prepared for Catholic Action Magazine and the News Service. A weekly feature, "Catholic Heroes of the World War" was written for the N.C.W.C. Feature Service. Lists of Gold Star Mothers and Widows visiting the graves of Catholics in the American cemeteries in Europe were released through the News Service.

The N.C.W.C. participated in the American Memorial Day services overseas through Mrs. Harrison and her daughters in Paris.


Daniel J. Ryan, Director,
Bureau of Historical Records.



By D. J. RYAN
(Director, N. C. W. C. Historical
Records Bureau, Central Depository
of Catholic War Data).

JOHN M. McINTOSH

The Silver Star Citation awarded to officers and enlisted personnel of the army for gallantry in action worthy of publication in Orders, but not within the limitations of the regulations for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross, has been accorded the distinction of an individual medal through a recent announcement of the War Department. The Silver Star citation was authorized in 1918. The new medal will be issued to World War veterans whose citations are on file in the War Department as applications are made and verified.

Lieut. John M. McIntosh of St. Peter's Parish, Columbia, S. C., earned the Silver Star citation on Sept. 12, 1918. Forty-three members of St. Peter's parish were in World War service. They are with the exception of six, officially credited to the State and are so listed in the Official Roster of South Carolina Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, World War 1917-18. Four parishioners made the supreme sacrifice. Their names appear on a memorial plaque in the church vestibule. Two were officers and two enlisted men. All deaths were occasioned by direct acts of the enemy.

Lieut. McIntosh, a graduate of Clemson College in 1914, was commissioned from civil life in November, 1917, at the Leon Springs, Texas, training camp. He was assigned to the 357th Infantry, 90th Division. At the start of the St. Mihiel advance this Division attacked north from Villers-en-Haye. The citation declares that Lieutenant McIntosh "coolly and fearlessly led his platoon in face of machine gun fire, over difficult ground literally covered with barbed wire entanglements;" and further that "while fighting bravely at the head of his platoon he was caught in wire entanglements and killed by machine gun fire." Lieut. McIntosh's body was later recovered and returned to the United States.

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NCWC-001 Box 125, Folder 4
4th Rec

THE PRESIDENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you today to express my deep concern over the current state of our nation's affairs. The challenges we face are immense, and it is my duty as a citizen to voice my thoughts and concerns to you, our leader.

The economic situation is dire. Unemployment is at an all-time high, and the average American family is struggling to make ends meet. The government's policies have failed to address these issues, and the people are suffering. I urge you to take immediate action to stimulate the economy and create jobs for our citizens.

Furthermore, the social fabric of our nation is being torn apart. There is a deep divide between different groups of people, and the government is not doing enough to bridge this gap. We need a leader who can bring us together and promote unity.

I am confident that you will take the necessary steps to address these concerns. I am a proud American, and I believe in the strength of our nation. I am sure that you will lead us through these difficult times and restore the prosperity and unity that we deserve.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

To: General Secretary
From: Bureau of Historical Records
Subject: Report and Status, 1933.

The Bureau of Historical Records has operated during the past year with a staff of two. The program has followed six major items: verification of reported Catholic service personnel with official data; casualty records with special regard for the overseas cemeteries; decorations and feature records; requests for data from the collection; promotion of the study of local Catholic records by committees and societies for the thoroughness of the Catholic record and cooperation with patriotic societies.

The verification of reported records with official data, whether directly with Government files here in Washington or from published reports and listings of citizens in the service by the states is a slow process. Yet, it constitutes the essence of a respectable collection. It safeguards the collection from sweeping criticisms that magazines like the New Age frequently give various Catholic histories. This verification work is considered our principal objective. In frequent tests we find that an average day amounts to one hundred cases checked, referenced and returned to the files. Our schedules at the present time show 240,000 cases with military and naval information.

Our recent work with the casualty records has been particularly beneficial to the appearances and thoroughness of this classification. We have obtained from the American Battle Monuments Commission copies of the records of unknowns, unlocated, lost at sea and buried at sea as carved on the cemetery chapel walls. These records are divided among the cemetery chapels. The Suresnes Cemetery chapel carries a bronze tablet rather than the names in the stone as in the other chapels. Owing to a renumbering of graves in some cemeteries by the Government as the last of the marble crosses were placed, we found it necessary to recheck all of our grave listings with those on file in the Quartermaster General's Office.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Total Available Catholic Service Personnel Records - - - - - 808,369
Of these:

Total carded and filed - - - - - 635,000
Total with detail information - - - - - 240,000

Re Casualties

Total of the Catholic Casualty Collection - - - - - 22,552
Overseas deaths noted among these - - - - - 12,343
Domestic deaths and incomplete cases - - - - - 10,209

Disposition of the 12,343 Bodies of Overseas Death Casualties
(Catholics)

Returned to United States - - - - - 6,845
Cemeterial Records - - - - - 5,372

Of these:

Bodies in known graves - - - - - 4,791
Unknowns, etc., Chapel Lists - - - - - 581

Bodies shipped to other countries - - - - - 126

Records of decorations for gallantry and citations thereof awarded Catholic service men and women are maintained as found. A weekly feature on some particular outstanding war event that displays the heroism of one or more Catholics is supplied to the N.C.W.C. Feature Service. This has developed the keen interest of the Legion of Valor, frequent correspondence with their national office and several visits here by their deputy chief of staff. The contacts of this office with the group to date has been entirely through non-Catholics

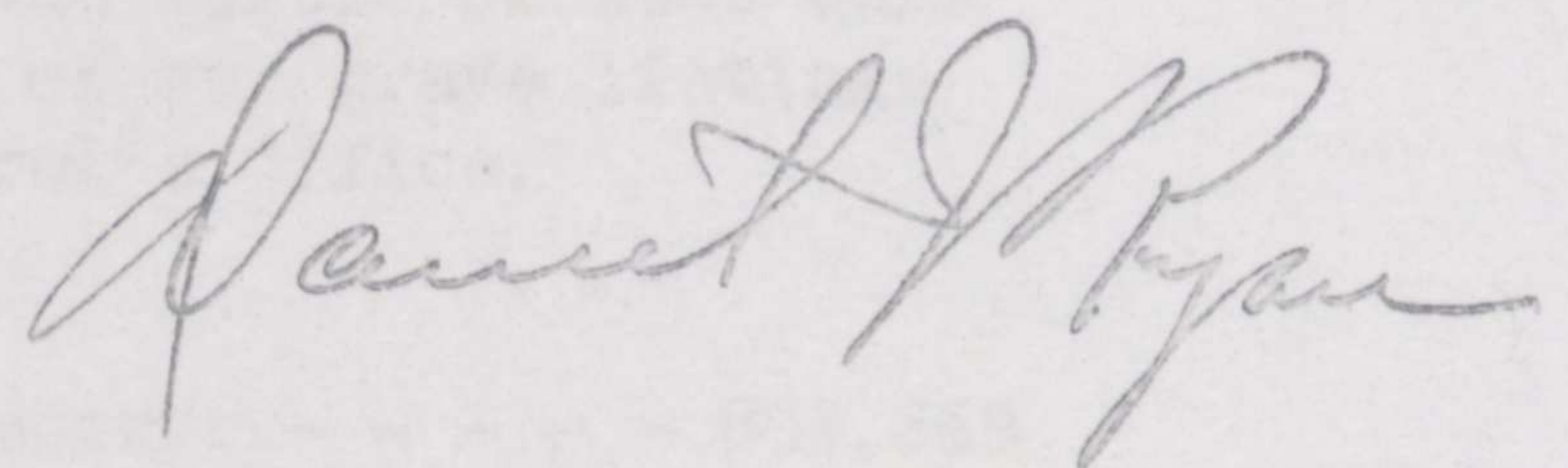
Requests for information received from students of the war period absorb considerable time. It is noted that through these the collection serves one of its objectives of having data available for the historian and at the same time allows scholarly mention of the Catholic patriotic record.

Promotion of the study of local Catholic records by the committees and societies is an important feature of the program. It has been given time in the past year as occasion arose. It is apparent, however, the Bureau must initiate a greater volume of this activity through the offices of the N.C.C.M. and N.C.C.W.

Contacts with various patriotic societies and associations, particularly, the American War Mothers and the Legion of Valor have been found valuable to the collection not only in making the work known, but, also in securing data. We have recorded with the national historian of the American War Mothers several hundred clippings and copies of the "Catholic Heroes of the World War," feature.

Mrs. Harrison of Paris represented the N.C.W.C. at the overseas Memorial Day ceremonies and at the receptions of the Gold Star pilgrims who visited the cemeteries during the year. The names of mothers and widows visiting graves of Catholics were checked from the sailing lists and released through the News Service.

The attached reference to the cemeteries overseas was released through the N.C.W.C. Pictorial Service in May and prominently displayed by all the Catholic papers that employ the service.



NEWWE OGS Box 125, Folder 4

'Hist Recs'

Requests for information received from students of the
the period around 1940-1941. It is noted that through these
the collection serves one of the purposes of saving data available
for the historian and at the same time allows scholarly research to
the historic past.

Provision of the state of Texas records by the
committee and the state of Texas records of the program.
It has been agreed that in the past year no passing record. It is
noted, however, that the records are in a general volume of this
activity through the records of the U.S. and N.O.W.

Various other records and associations
historically, the records of the state of Texas have
been turned over to the collection not only in the past year but
also in the past. It has been agreed that the national
historical records of the state of Texas are in the collection and
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