

The 'Hero Priest' Of Corregidor

By Justin F. Gleichauf

When a highly-decorated Franciscan priest who served overseas as a chaplain in both World Wars and survived the Bataan Death March at 50 plus and almost four years of Japanese prison camps, died recently at 94, he was buried under the altar of a church he built largely with his own hands on an Apache Indian reservation after two bishops conducted the services.

Fr. Albert Braun, OFM, a truly remarkable man, was the "hero priest of Corregidor."

Ordained in 1915, Fr. Braun volunteered to serve in the Indian missions, and was assigned to the then-remote Mescalero Apache reservation in the mountains of southern New Mexico. This was the beginning of his life-long love and respect for the Apache. It was fully reciprocated and it culminated in the highest honor the Apache can give, recognition as a warrior and brother.

In 1917, Fr. Braun volunteered as an Army chaplain and was assigned to the 6th Infantry Division in France. His battalion commander was a young officer, Maj. Courtney Hodges, with whom he formed a lifetime friendship. Hodges later became the World War II commander of the 1st Army.

Fr. Braun saw his first action at St. Mihiel, where his regiment lost 55% of its men in one morning. Unauthorized, he went "over the top" with the troops. Ignoring a shrapnel wound in the jaw, he remained on the field, comforting the wounded and giving last rites to the dying. He stayed through the bloody Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Officiating at the burial of the dead, many unknown, he determined that one day he would pay suitable honor to the American soldier. Years later, when he built a church on the Apache

reservation, he dedicated it to the soldiers of World War I and the sanctuary altar to St. Martin of Tours, the soldiers' patron saint. Later, soldiers of World War II were equally honored.

When he got back to the reservation after the war, Fr. Braun was warmly welcomed by the Apache, with impressive ceremonies, as a respected warrior.

Having seen the grand churches of Europe, Fr. Braun decided to build one in the Gothic style. However, he had a few problems. He was alone, had no money, no plans from which to build, no tools and no labor force.

Putting first things first, he contacted a prominent Philadelphia architect, William Stanton, and explained his aims and problems. The impressed Stanton drew up a set of plans following old European church construction practices that rely almost entirely on hand labor. He donated the plans to the young Franciscan friar, who started to build his church with only \$100 in cash that had been left over from his Army pay and two volunteer workers.

It took 20 years of hard labor to complete. Materials used were all native to the locality. Stone was quarried four miles from the church site and hauled laboriously by wagon until he cannibalized two old trucks to make one that worked, some of the time at least.

Fr. Braun did much of the work himself. Occasionally Apache volunteers, Mexican-Americans living near the reservation; a few refugee Franciscans from Mexico and Brother Salesius, a German artillery captain in World War I, helped.

The mission Church of St. Joseph, on a knoll in a valley, is surrounded by heavily-forested mountains. Its walls are up to 8 feet thick. The tip of the cross on the tower stands at 103 feet. The church was dedicated on July 4,

1939, with colorful church and native Apache ceremonies.

With war clouds darkening, Fr. Braun again became an Army chaplain. This time he volunteered for the Philippines, and arrived there a few months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During the fighting on Bataan, he constantly visited units on the line, hearing confessions and celebrating Mass.

Retired Col. William Massello, who commanded an anti-aircraft battery, recalls Fr. Braun visiting his unit on Bataan several times.

"He was a very strong character, never asked for anything and even refused a tent," Massello said. "He was dedicated, lean and hard physically, not much of a talker, and highly respected by all. He was my idea of an Army chaplain.

"Because of his appearance and ease of movement, and without know-



Gen. Jonathan Wainwright presents Fr. Albert Braun with the Silver Star Medal at Brooke General Hospital in 1946. Fr. Braun, a chaplain in both World Wars became known as the "hero priest of Corregidor." (Photo by Dorothy Emerson Yeager.)

ing anything about his background, we called him the 'Indian Fighter,' but not to his face."

The weary and outnumbered defenders of Bataan were slowly forced back. The end was inevitable. Years before, Fr. Braun had borrowed \$3,000 from Bishop Schuler, of El Paso, to finish the roof on his church. Via the last submarine to leave Corregidor, on May 3, 1942, Fr. Braun sent a check to cover the final installment on his debt. Corregidor fell on May 7.

Alberto Gonzalez, of Tularosa, N.M., was a member of the 200th Coast Artillery, New Mexico National Guard, and was one of the defenders of Bataan. His unit included many Mexican-Americans and Apaches whom Fr. Braun knew well.

Gonzalez and his brother had worked on Fr. Braun's church, but he had not seen the priest since he rejoined the Army.

"I went to Mass in the PW camp, and there was Fr. Albert saying the Mass. The first thing he said to me was 'How's your brother?'" Gonzalez recalls.

"Fr. Braun was just as rugged as his church, and he had to be, because he received a lot of harsh treatment from the Japanese guards. He insisted on

holding Mass for the men in spite of the fact that religious services had been prohibited, and he finally won out."

He added that Fr. Braun was one of the few who made it back from the section of the hospital which was the end of the line for hopeless cases.

Retired M/Sgt. Luis Mendoza, of El Paso, also a former member of the 200th, remembers, "In camp, many men were dying daily of diphtheria. Fr. Braun somehow managed to smuggle in some vaccine. However, there was not enough for all, so it was decided to draw lots. Fr. Braun won a share for himself but gave it to another man who was in very bad shape."

Retired Maj. Gerald Greeman, of Deming, N.M., confirms the story; he was the one who received Fr. Braun's share.

"Fr. Braun was always resourceful. Via the underground, he managed to contact some priests in Manila and arranged to smuggle in some vaccine through the wire. When he won a share, he said, 'Give it to Gerald, he's much sicker than I am, and his will be fatal quickly unless he gets medication now.'"

"He was right. My throat was already swelling shut, and it was a life or death situation. Fr. Braun not only saved my life, but he was always willing to give up some of his food to others who he felt needed it more."

While in various prison camps, Fr.

Braun earned the nickname, "Al Capone," because he could find or "liberate" a variety of items, especially fruit, to supplement the highly-deficient diet of the men. With the Apache, he had learned to survive by living off the country. He and his men would smuggle his finds into camp when returning from work details outside.

When Japan surrendered, Fr. Braun was in a camp in Japan. He was in very bad physical condition as a result of dysentery, beriberi, pellagra and malaria, in addition to his serious bout with diphtheria. He also had received brutal treatment for disobeying orders in ministering to the men. His weight was down to about 110 and he required a long period of hospitalization.

Mendoza says, "I saw Fr. Braun when he was being released from the hospital in El Paso and I took him home with me. Within an hour I had a crowd of 25-30 ex-PWs in my house, each insisting that he personally should take care of Father Albert."

Fr. Braun returned to his beloved Mescalero reservation, to be welcomed with great rejoicing.

More honors were to come.

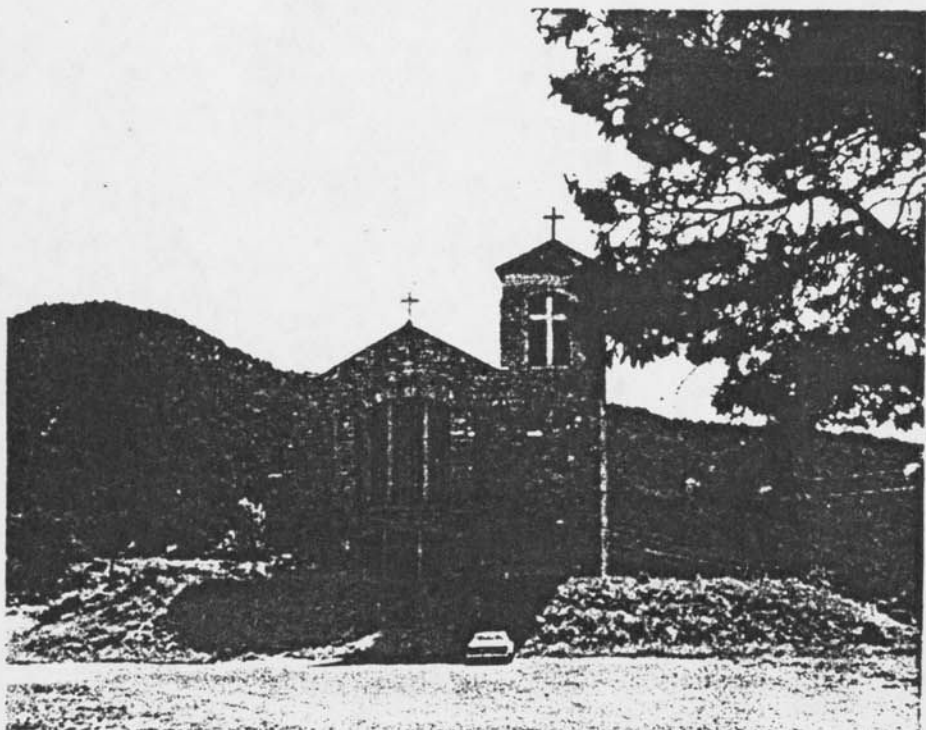
Maj. Gen. John L. Homer, commander of Fort Bliss, accompanied by his staff, a platoon of troops and the massed bands of the 62nd and 247th Army Ground Forces Bands traveled over 100 miles to the Mescalero Reservation to present the Legion of Merit

(continued on page 44)



One of the mourners at the funeral of Fr. Albert Braun pays his final respects to the "hero priest of Corregidor." (El Paso Times Photo.)

This is the Church of St. Joseph on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation in New Mexico that Fr. Albert Braun built with his own hands, helped by Indians. (El Paso Times Photo.)



The Hero Priest

(continued from page 27)

to Fr. Braun before an audience of 1,200 Apache Indians and visitors. Fr. Braun received the award in his uniform as a lieutenant-colonel of the 9th Coast Artillery.

Because of continued deterioration of his health, Fr. Braun was forced to leave the vigorous life on the reservation for more hospitalization. While at Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio, he was presented with the Silver Star personally by Gen. Jonathan Wainwright who made a special trip to honor "his" chaplain. The medal was awarded for gallantry for "repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire while rescuing the wounded and giving the last rites to the dying."

Ultimately, severe arthritis forced Fr. Braun to be confined to a wheelchair. He retired from the Army in June, 1949, and spent his last years in Phoenix working with poor Mexican-Americans as long as his health permitted.

However, as the years passed, he maintained contact with his Apache friends. When he felt his time was drawing close, he requested permission to be buried on the reservation he loved so well.

Permission for a white man to be buried in Indian ground is rarely, if ever, granted. It was not only given, but he was accorded the honor of being buried in the church he had largely built himself, under the altar of St. Martin of Tours.

The great stone church was jammed, with hundreds of friends and admirers standing outside. Included were many survivors of the New Mexico 200th, of Bataan, who came in from all over the Southwest. Maj. Freeman and M/Sgt. Mendoza were here, as was Alberto Gonzalez.

The funeral Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, of Las Cruces, and Bishop Emeritus Sydney Metzgar, of El Paso.

It was a solemn and impressive ceremony, and Luis Mendoza adds, "Eulogies were also given by the Apache in their native tongue and they performed tribal ceremonies honoring their priest. An Apache guard of honor escorted the body of Fr. Braun to the burial place and just before the casket was lowered, they placed a large, beautiful, hand-woven blanket over the casket."

A plain granite slab on the floor

before the altar serves as a headstone. It pays tribute to Fr. Braun as "Apostle to the Mescalero Apache."

The simplicity of the bare, rough rock walls of the church exemplifies the spirit of the man who devoted his life to others.

In the Church of St. Joseph are found portraits of the Apache's most famous chiefs, their great warriors, Geronimo, Cochise, Victorio, Naiche and Fr. Albert Braun, OFM.

No finer tribute could be paid to a man of peace who had the heart of a warrior.

NEW

SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 10)

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cash bar
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Banquet — no dancing or bar
Roving musicians, installation of officers, recognition of state commanders and chapters.

Tickets Required:

Indian Cultural Center, Mexican Folklorico, Dancers, Mariachis at Tapatio, Past Commanders Dance, banquet.

Free to all Attendees:

National Atomic Museum, Ladies' activities, sightseeing bus, shopping bus.

Also available is the "Molly Trolleys" (similar to San Francisco cable cars) for 25¢. The cars travel to all the hotels, zoo, Indian Cultural Center and Coronado Shopping Center. They run Monday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A special trolley from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight Monday thru Saturday will go to restaurants and night-clubs.

THE HERO PRIEST

(Continued from Page 9)

"I went to Mass in the PW camp, and there was Fr. Albert saying the Mass. The first thing he said to me was 'How's your brother?'" Gonzalez recalls.

"Fr. Braun was just as rugged as his church, and he had to be, because he received a lot of harsh treatment from the Japanese guards. He insisted on holding Mass for the men in spite of the fact that religious services had been prohibited, and he finally won out."

He added that Fr. Braun was one of the few who made it back from the section of the hospital which was the end of the line for hopeless cases.

Retired M/Sgt. Luis Mendoza, of El Paso, also a former member of the 200th, remembers, "In camp, many men were dying daily of diphtheria. Fr. Braun somehow managed to smuggle in some vaccine. However, there was not enough for all, so it was decided to draw lots. Fr. Braun won a share for himself but gave it to another man who was in very bad shape."

Retired Maj. General Greeman, of Deming, N.M., confirms the story; he was the one who received Fr. Braun's share.

"Fr. Braun was always resourceful. Via the underground, he managed to contact some priests in Manila and arranged to smuggle in some vaccine through the wire. When he won a share, he said, 'Give it to Gerald, he's much sicker than I am, and his will be fatal quickly unless he gets medication now.'"

"He was right. My throat was already swelling shut, and it was a life or death situation. Fr. Braun not only saved my life, but he was always willing to give up some of his food to others who he felt needed it more."

While in various prison camps, Fr. Braun earned the nickname, "Al Capone," because he could find or "liberate" a variety of items, especially fruit, to supplement the highly-deficient diet of the men. With the Apache, he had learned to survive by living off the country. He and his men would smuggle his finds into camp when returning from work details outside.

When Japan surrendered, Fr. Braun was in a camp in Japan. He was in very bad physical condition as a result of dysentery, beriberi, pellagra and malaria, in addition to his serious bout with diphtheria. He also had received brutal treatment for disobeying orders in ministering to the men. His weight was

down to about 110 and he required a long period of hospitalization.

Mendoza says, "I saw Fr. Braun when he was being released from the hospital in El Paso and I took him home with me. Within an hour I had a crowd of 25-30 ex-PWs in my house, each insisting that he personally should take care of Father Albert."

Fr. Braun returned to his beloved Mescalero reservation, to be welcomed with great rejoicing.

More honors were to come.

Maj. Gen. John L. Homer, commander of Fort Bliss, accompanied by his staff, a platoon of troops and the massed bands of the 62nd and 247th Army Ground Forces Bands traveled over 100 miles to the Mescalero Reservation to present the Legion of Merit to Fr. Braun before an audience of 1,200 Apache Indians and visitors. Fr. Braun received the award in his uniform as a lieutenant-colonel of the 92nd Coast Artillery.

Because of continued deterioration of his health, Fr. Braun was forced to leave the vigorous life on the reservation for more hospitalization. While at Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio, he was presented with the Silver Star personally by Gen. Jonathan Wainwright who made a special trip to honor "his" chaplain. The medal was awarded for gallantry for "repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire while rescuing the wounded and giving the last rites to the dying."

Ultimately, severe arthritis forced Fr. Braun to be confined to a wheelchair. He retired from the Army in June, 1949, and spent his last years in Phoenix working with poor Mexican-Americans as long as his health permitted.

However, as the years passed, he maintained contact with his Apache friends. When he felt his time was drawing close, he requested permission to be buried on the reservation he loved so well.

Permission for a white man to be buried in Indian ground is rarely, if ever, granted. It was not only given, but he was accorded the honor of being buried in the church he had largely built himself, under the altar of St. Martin of Tours.

The great stone church was jammed, with hundreds of friends and admirers standing outside. Included were many survivors of the New Mexico 200th, of Bataan, who came in from all over the Southwest. Maj. Greeman and M/Sgt. Mendoza were there, as was Alberto Gonzalez.

The funeral Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, of Las Cruces, and Bishop Emeritus Sydney Metzgar, of El Paso.

It was a solemn and impressive ceremony, and Luis Mendoza adds, "Eulogies were also given by the Apache in their native tongue and they performed tribal ceremonies honoring their priest. An Apache guard of honor escorted the body of Fr. Braun to the burial place and just before the casket was lowered, they placed a large, beautiful, hand-woven blanket over the casket."

A plain granite slab on the floor before the altar serves as a headstone. It pays tribute to Fr. Braun as "Apostle to the Mescalero Apache."

The simplicity of the bare, rough rock walls of the church exemplifies the spirit of the man who devoted his life to others.

In the Church of St. Joseph are found portraits of the Apache's most famous chiefs, their great warriors, Geronimo, Cochise, Victorio, Naiche and Fr. Albert Braun, OFM.

No finer tribute could be paid to a man of peace who had the heart of a warrior.

William N. McCormack

Life Member,

Dear Comrades, I am writing you to inform you that a monument for the P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s are being built at the V.F.W. Post 6386 in Ingleside Texas. It is being built in behalf of all the P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s The V.F.W. donated the property for me to build it on. I hope to have it built by July 20th, 1985. If any one or member of any family would like to send a name plate to be put upon it, I would be glad to see that it is put on the monument. I am also sending you a small picture of what it is going to look like. I would like all the plates to be of uniform size. Preferably made of bronze or brass. Please send all plates to my address above. I would like to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,
Retired Disability,
William N. McCormack
4th Regiment 4th Marines
U.S.M.C.



FATHER ALBERT BRAUN O.F.M.

BORN SEPTEMBER 6, 1892

DIED MARCH 6, 1983

FATHER ALBERT WAS A YOUNG MISSIONARY AND TEACHER TO THE MESCALERO APACHES IN NEW MEXICO AND OTHER TRIBES IN ARIZONA.

FATHER BRAUN WAS AN ARMY CHAPLAIN IN WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II RECEIVING THE PURPLE HEART AND TWO SILVER STARS FOR HIS HEROIC SERVICE. HE WAS A PRISONER OF WAR FOR 40 MONTHS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

HE CAME TO ARIZONA IN 1949 AND ASSISTED THE POOR IN McNARY PARKER ON THE COLORADO RIVER AND ST. JOHN'S INDIAN MISSION. HE WAS ALSO A TEACHER AT ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL IN PHOENIX.

DISCOURAGED HISPANICS IN CENTRAL PHOENIX NEEDED A CHURCH AND FATHER BRAUN TOLD THEM, BRING ME A BRICK AND TOGETHER WE WILL BUILD A CHURCH. THE BRICKS CAME AND THE CHURCH WAS BUILT.

HIS LEGACY LIVES ON IN THE THOUSANDS OF LIVES HE TOUCHED. SO REVERED WAS HE THAT UPON HIS DEATH, THE MESCALERO APACHES CLAIMED HIS BODY FOR BURIAL AMONG THEM.

"HE LIFTED THE SPIRITS OF PEOPLE AND GAVE THEM DIGNITY"

AWARDS: TWO SILVER STARS PURPLE HEART LEGION OF MERIT
ARIZONA MEDAL OF HONOR ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME

ARCHITECT: ROBERT GOMEZ SCULPTOR: CARLOS AYALA

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT: RUBEN L. VALENZUELA

#####

"GRAB A ROCK," AN OBITUARY - FATHER ALBERT BRAUN

A Tribute to an extraordinary Priest
+++++

The Reverend ALBERT BRAUN, "Father ALBERT" to all who knew him, laid down his working tools and entered into eternal peace and rest on March 6, 1983. Father ALBERT, who was 93 years of age when he passed away, did so at the Good Samaritan Medical Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Although confined to a wheel chair for many years, Father ALBERT continued to "round up" people for catechism classes and he loved to baptize children and to perform marriage ceremonies at the Sacred Heart Home where he had been a resident.



The Rev. Albert Braun

Father ALBERT entered seminary when he was 13 years of age and he was ordained in the Order of Franciscan Missionaries in 1915. He was assigned to the Apache Reservation at Mescaleros, New Mexico and it was here that he had a Great Vision that one day he would build a church for use of his beloved Indians. To that end and to that purpose, he dedicated himself until he saw his dream materialize. He was so dedicated in his work that when one of his Buddy POWs came to visit, Father ALBERT seldom paused during his labor and if you wanted to talk to him, he always said: "GRAB A ROCK."

He answered the Call of His Country as an Army Chaplain during World War I and, following the Armistice in 1918, he returned to the Land of the Mescalero Apache to finish his church. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, he was recalled to active duty as a Chaplain; this time he was assigned to the Philippines.

Peripatetic and ubiquitous Father ALBERT was seen everywhere the troops were engaged, be it in combat or visiting them if they were patients in our hospitals. In terms of age, unquestionably he was much older than many of his Chaplain colleagues. In terms of energy, his seemed boundless and he could outdistance the youngest among us.

When the Japanese Forces overwhelmed the Defenders, Father ALBERT, along with all of us, became a prisoner of war and he was to endure approximately forty months before he was liberated. At Cabanatuan Prison Camp Number One, Father ALBERT was assigned to "The Sick Side" of the camp. Even though all Chaplains were instructed by the Japanese NOT to hold Services except at the risk of their lives, Father ALBERT as well as ALL Chaplains went ahead, defying those instructions and held as many services as possible for our Men.

Many of the men entering the "Sick Side" were to live a matter of days or possibly two weeks before they were to be carried to the camp cemetery. In July 1942, more than 750 men died of dysentery alone and for the dying, the most comfort at the moment was to see a Chaplain kneeling on a filthy dirt floor which was their bed, cheering them and offering prayer which they so many times requested before the Chaplain suggested this be done.

Along with a large work detail, Father ALBERT was then sent to the Davao Penal Colony where again he ministered to the sick and those who requested his Services. He remained there from October 1942 until June 1944. He was then sent to Japan where he continued to attend to the troops as they needed him. Father ALBERT never once showed fear of our Japanese captors. He took chances - terrible chances - each time he smuggled food or medicine beneath his brown Franciscan robes.

Father ALBERT retired from the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel. He earned the Legion of Merit, two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart. In 1965 he was awarded the Arizona Medal of Honor for his service to his community and to his country. In 1979 he received the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Award.

Although every one of our Chaplains were the Greatest, Father ALBERT was truly OUTSTANDING. There is no question in the minds of any of us who knew him that when faced His MASTER in Heaven, he received the words: "Well done... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



Hall of Fame . . .

Father Albert Braun, O.F.M., second from right, is presented the Department of Arizona DAV's Veterans Hall of Fame award. Hall of Fame Committee members are, from left, Morgan Asbell, Chairman Lloyd Dingman, and Lou Blakely. Father Braun served as chaplain to General Pershing during World War I, and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received on the battlefield. He was serving as chaplain to General Wainright on Corregidor when World War II broke out, and was awarded the Legion of Merit and Silver Star for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the defense of Bataan and Corregidor. While a POW for 40 months, he continued to serve God and his fellow POWs, although gravely ill and under the constant threat of death. He also built the nationally renowned memorial to the veterans of two world wars in the Mission Church on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation.

"GRAB A ROCK. . ." **AN OBITUARY — FATHER ALBERT BRAUN**

A Tribute to an extraordinary Priest

The Reverend Albert Braun, "Father ALBERT" to all who knew him, laid down his working tools and entered into eternal peace and rest on March 6, 1983. Father ALBERT, who was 93 years of age when he passed away, did so at the Good Samaritan Medical Center, Phoenix, Arizona. Although confined to a wheel chair for many years, Father ALBERT continued to "round up" people for catechism classes and he loved to baptize children and to perform marriage ceremonies at the Sacred Heart Home where he had been a resident.

Father ALBERT entered seminary when he was 13 years of age and he was ordained in the Order of Franciscan Missionaries in 1915. He was assigned to the Apache Reservation at Mescaleros, New Mexico and it was here that he had a Great Vision that one day he would build a church for use of his beloved Indians. To that end and to that purpose, he dedicated himself until he saw his dream materialize. He was so dedicated in his work that when one of his Buddy POWs came to visit, Father ALBERT seldom paused during his labor and if you wanted to talk to him, he always said: "GRAB A ROCK."

He answered the Call of His Country as an Army Chaplain during World War I and, following the Armistice in 1918, he returned to the Land of the Mescalero Apache to finish his church. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, he was recalled to active duty as a Chaplain; this time he was assigned to the Philippines.

Peripatetic and ubiquitous Father ALBERT was seen everywhere the troops were engaged, be it in combat or visiting them if they were patients in our hospitals. In terms of age, unquestionably he was much older than many of his Chaplain colleagues. In terms of energy, his seemed boundless and he could outdistance the youngest among us.

When the Japanese Forces overwhelmed the Defenders, Father ALBERT, along with all of us, became a prisoner of war and he was to endure approximately forty months

before he was liberated. At Cabanatuan Prison Camp Number One, Father ALBERT was assigned to "The Sick Side" of the camp. Even though all Chaplains were instructed by the Japanese NOT to hold Services except at the risk of their lives, Father ALBERT as well as ALL Chaplains went ahead, defying those instructions and held as many services as possible for our Men.

Many of the men entering the "Sick Side" were to live a matter of days or possibly two weeks before they were to be carried to the camp cemetery. In July 1942, more than 750 men died of dysentery alone and for the dying, the most comfort at the moment was to see a Chaplain kneeling on a filthy dirt floor which was their bed, cheering them and offering prayer which they so many times requested before the Chaplain suggested this be done.

Along with a large work detail, Father ALBERT was then sent to the Davao Penal Colony where again he ministered to the sick and those who requested his Services. He remained there from October 1942 until June 1944. He was then sent to Japan where he continued to attend to the troops as they needed him. Father ALBERT never once showed fear of our Japanese captors. He took chances — terrible chances — each time he smuggled food or medicine beneath his brown Franciscan robes.

Father ALBERT retired from the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps as a Lieutenant Colonel. He earned the Legion of Merit, two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart. In 1965 he was awarded the Arizona Medal of Honor for his service to his community and to his country. In 1979 he received the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Award.

Although every one of our Chaplains were the Greatest, Father ALBERT was truly OUTSTANDING. There is no question in the minds of any of us who knew him that when faced His MASTER in Heaven, he received the words: "Well done . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

**SEE YOU AT
THE CONVENTION
IN MIAMI BEACH**