

PILGRIMAGE TO DACHAU.

They started at Blackbush aerodrome: 27 Catholics making a pilgrimage to Dachau, the concentration camp where the Nazis exterminated untold thousands during the war. Now, 20 years after the war began, devout Christians flew to Dachau, praying that such evil may never again affront mankind.

At Munich Airport the pilgrims were met by Group Captain Cheshire, and by him conducted to the place whose very name once meant, Abandon hope, all ye that enter here.

"Grave of many thousands unknown". Bare words, attesting outrageous crime on a scale the world had never known before. Touring the camp, the pilgrims could perhaps imagine something of what it used to be when legions of the innocent longed for death, herded behind electrified barbed wire. One who survived Dachau, Fr. Roth, talked with Sue Ryder, who has been tireless in succouring victims of the war. To the crematorium they went with the others. Once, the condemned had walked that way; at least 60,000, yet but a fraction of the fifteen millions the Nazis exterminated. At the furnaces where the victims were burned, Cheshire, his wife Sue Ryder and the priest may have prayed in silence.

This was the scene in Dachau and smiliar camps at the end of the war. Man's inhumanity to man, always a blot upon the race, reached here its lowest depth.

Those who were not condemned to death, death greedily overtook. There is a statue in memory of those who died at Dachau; a reminder to all who live..

Some that survived Dachau came to the pilgrimage. All were here at the prompting of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, with the purpose of holding an all night vigil, to pray that we shall never again see such crime perpetrated.

If the inhuman monsters of Dachau once bade all prisoners abandon hope they sought the impossible, for in faith and the human spirit, hope is eternal. Men like Cheshire, and in a lesser way everyday people, teach that salvation lies, not in worldly power, but in the abiding virtues, Divinely inspired.....