Bishop Witnessed Japanese Bayonet Britons to Death

New York, Oct. 12.—(CP)—Bishop Cuthbert O'Gara, a native of Ottawa, and vicar apostolic of Yuanling, told in an interview here yesterday of the six months he spent in a Japanese internment camp after the fall of Hong Kong.

Having worked in China for 20 years as head of the Passionist Mission in Western Hunan, the bishop was taken prisoner the Christmas morning of 1941, being ordered from a hospital just outside the city, where he was being treated.

Stripped to his underwear, the bishop was taken to a firing line, along with 32 other missionary priests and brothers, and made to stand there for some 90 minutes, his hands tied behind his back.

"I don't know why we were not executed," he said, explaining that "British officers were bayoneted to death."

Put in a garage, the bishop and his companions were kept there for three days and four nights, his hands still tied and clad only in his underclothes.

"Then," he went on, "we were taken to a dark, filthy Chinese hotel . . . and after that horror were moved to a big concentration camp."

Bishop O'Gara said he thought his release from that camp after some five months' imprisonment was brought about by the "good offices of the Holy See." When released he was so ill he had to remain with the Italian bishop at Hong Kong for another month.

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