Ben Salmon

AN AMERICAN WAR HERO WHO FOLLOWED JESUS IN THE ARMY OF PEACE

Ben Salmon died in poverty on February 15, 1932. We have identified Ben’s unmarked gravesite in Chicago and are working to raise funds for a respectable memorial marker for Ben, the Unsung Hero of the Great War.

Donations can be sent to:
Ben Salmon Tombstone Fund
c/o Jim Clune
89 Pine St.
Binghamton, NY 13905

This pamphlet is the work of Friends of Franz and Ben, a group formed to promote the Catholic witness of Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian executed by the Nazis for refusing to join the killing machine, and of Ben Salmon.

Pamphlet designed by Betty Moore, www.artistinbloom.com
Ben Salmon of Denver, Colorado Holy Family Parish was a prolific writer and agitator in opposition to the United States’ entry into World War I.

He was one of four Catholic conscientious objectors to the so-called “War to End All Wars” and was identified by Dorothy Day as “one of the unsung heroes of the World War.”

From childhood Ben Salmon was infused with a deep and abiding faith developed through weekly attendance at Mass, Catholic grade school, and the witness of his family, which led to his firm belief in Jesus’ admonition to love your enemy.

When Ben Salmon refused induction into the Army as a matter of conscience, he was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by the military.

Ben’s crime was his belief that the nonviolent teaching of Jesus Christ was based on love, not killing. Ben Salmon rejected the “Just War Theory”. He believed no war could be just. He said he would not cooperate in any way with the war machine.

As a result of his determination to live his faith, Ben suffered physical torture and emotional abuse during his 2 1/2 years in military prison including 4 1/2 months in solitary confinement at Fort Leavenworth.

Ben, considered mentally unfit since most Catholics agreed to do military service, was committed to the criminally insane wing of St Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. Through the work of a Catholic Priest advocate and the newly formed American Civil Liberties Union, he was released from prison on November 26, 1920.

Ben Salmon did not return to Denver because of death threats. In poor physical condition after his release, Ben died a premature death at age 43.

In spite of all he suffered, Ben’s devotion to the Church never wavered and he worked hard to express to his beloved Church his understanding of overcoming evil with good and of Christ’s commandment to love your neighbor.

We believe that Ben was a hero of his Catholic faith. We urge Catholics of the United States to support Ben Salmon in the process of beatification and eventual canonization.

We have launched the Ben Salmon website at www.bensalmon.org, and will be adding to the site in the coming months and years. We ask you for assistance in spreading the wisdom and witness of this man’s faith, courage, and morality.

For more information: www.bensalmon.org
Jack Gilroy
2716 Hamilton Dr.
Endwell, NY 13760
Telephone: 607-321-8537
e-mail: jgilroy1@icloud.com

Ben Salmon Speakers Bureau
Mike Baxter
Telephone: 574-514-8859
e-mail: mjtbaxter@gmail.com