

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Events – November 1918

Thursday November 7, 1918



Russia: Moscow

Patriarch Tikhon aka Vasily Ivanovich Bellavin (aged 53, U.S. citizen; **UPDATE:** wrote “We address this prophecy of the Savior to you, the current makers of our Fatherland’s fate, who call yourself “the people’s” commissars. For an entire year, you have been gripping the power of the government in your hands, and you are already preparing to celebrate the anniversary of the October revolution, but the rivers of the blood of our brothers, pitilessly murdered at your rallying, cry out to heaven and force us to tell you the bitter truth... Truly you have given them a stone instead of bread, and a serpent instead of a fish [cf. Matt. 7:9-10]... you are ceaselessly gathering armies. Against whom will you lead them?... You have divided the entire nation into warring camps and cast it into a fratricide unprecedented for its cruelty. You have openly exchanged love of Christ for hatred, and instead of peace you have artificially fomented enmity between the classes. And there is no end in sight to the war you have generated... No one feels safe: everyone lives in constant fear of searches, robbery, eviction, arrest, and execution. Hundreds of defenseless people are seized, then languish for whole months in prisons... Especially painful and cruel is the violation of freedom in matters of faith. Not a day goes by when the most monstrous slanders against Christ’s Church and her servants are not published in the agencies of your press, along with malicious blasphemy and mockery... What else can I say? The time fails me [Heb. 11:32] to describe all the catastrophes that have stricken our Motherland. I will not speak of the collapse of a once great and mighty Russia, of the total fracturing of our railroad, of unprecedented agricultural devastation, of hunger and cold that threatens death in the cities, and of the lack of everything needed for maintaining a household in the villages. This everyone can see. Yes, we are experiencing terrible times in our reign, and it will not be erased from the peoples’ soul for a long time, having darkened the image of God in it and stamping in it the image of the beast ... Now to you, who are using your authority to persecute your neighbors and decimate the innocent, we extend our word of instruction: celebrate the anniversary of your coming to power by freeing the prisoners, putting a stop to the bloodshed, violence, devastation, and persecution of faith, turn not to destruction but to the establishment of law and order, give the people their desired and deserved rest from civil war. Otherwise all the righteous blood you have spilled will be required of you [cf. Lk. 11:50], and you who took sword in hand will yourselves die of the sword [cf. Matt. 26:52]”)

<http://orthochristian.com/108201.html>

Monday November 11, 1918
The Armistice ended the First World War

Thursday November 14, 1918



United States - California: Alcatraz Federal Prison

Four Christian conscientious objectors were transferred to the Army prison at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas

Michael Hofer (aged 25; **UPDATE:** transferred)

Joseph Hofer (aged 24, husband of Maria; **UPDATE:** transferred)

David Hofer (**UPDATE:** transferred)

Jacob Wipf (**UPDATE:** transferred)

<https://martyrstories.org/jacob-wipf/>

<https://theviewfromthisseat.blogspot.com/2014/11/in-memory-of-hutterite-martyrs-of-1918.html>

Monday November 18, 1918



United States - Kansas: Fort Leavenworth

Four Christian conscientious objectors arrived at the Army prison, forced to run uphill at bayonet point and then to stand naked outdoors in the cold air for 2 hours, subjected to a bread and water diet

Michael Hofer (aged 25; **UPDATE:** arrived)

Joseph Hofer (aged 24, husband of Maria; **UPDATE:** arrived)

David Hofer (**UPDATE**: arrived)

Jacob Wipf (**UPDATE**: arrived)

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Friday November 29, 1918



United States - Kansas: Fort Leavenworth

Joseph Hofer (aged 24, husband of Maria, brother of David and Michael, brother in law of Jacob Wipf, conscientious objector, arrested in [Camp Lewis, Washington](#) on [May 28, 1918](#) for refusing to cooperate with his military induction, was later beaten; court-martialed on [June 10, 1918](#), convicted, and sentenced to 37 years' imprisonment; transferred to [Alcatraz Federal Prison in California](#) on [June 27, 1918](#), upon arrival was beaten, starved, subjected to cold and damp, and denied clothing other than military uniforms which he refused, developed eczema and scurvy; transferred to the Army prison at [Fort Leavenworth in Kansas](#) on [November 14, 1918](#); arrived at [Fort Leavenworth](#) on [November 18, 1918](#), forced to run uphill at bayonet point and then to stand naked outdoors in the cold air for 2 hours, subjected to a bread and water diet; **UPDATE: died in captivity, possibly of influenza**)

<https://martyrstories.org/jacob-wipf/>

<https://theviewfromthisseat.blogspot.com/2014/11/in-memory-of-hutterite-martyrs-of-1918.html>

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL26500126M/Pacifists_in_Chains

November 1918, date unknown