

- 1 At dawn on this day in 1944, the Germans started their last major counter-attack of the Second World War. They took advantage of heavy mists that lay over the Ardennes region on Germany's border with Belgium and Luxembourg.
- 2 The Germans were thought no longer capable of launching a major offensive, yet they managed to reach 50 miles within the Allied lines before they had to retreat.
- 3 One of the leaders of the American forces of this "*Battle of the Ardennes*" (also called "*The Battle of the Bulge*") was General Omar Bradley.
- 4 Some years after the end of the Second World War, and as some nations were spending vast amounts of money on stock-piling nuclear and other weapons, General Omar Bradley spoke the following words:
 - 5 "*We have too many men of science,
too few men of God.
We have grasped the mystery of the atom,
and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.
The world has achieved
brilliance without wisdom,
power without conscience.
Ours is a world
of nuclear giants
and ethical infants.
We know more about war
than we do about peace;
more about killing
than we do about living.*"
- 6 General Omar Bradley mentioned the "*Sermon on the Mount*". Those words of Jesus include the "Beatitudes", which are a set of 8 statements of choices which lead to a person being happy or blessed. We can reflect and pray today, using the words of those Beatitudes:
 - 7 **"Happy are the poor in spirit
- for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.**
 - 8 **Happy are those who mourn
- for they will be given
courage and comfort.**
 - 9 **Happy are the gentle and humble
- for they shall have the earth
as their heritage.**
 - 10 **Happy are those who hunger and thirst
for what is good and right
- for they will be fully satisfied.**
 - 11 **Happy are those
who are merciful to others
- for they will have mercy
shown to them.**
 - 12 **Happy are the utterly sincere
- for they will see God.**
 - 13 **Happy are those who promote peace
- for they will be called God's children.**
 - 14 **Happy are those who suffer persecution
for the cause of goodness
- for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs."**

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:

www.prayingeachday.org