Memories of Fr. Denis Gibson C.Ss.R

by Fr. Beverley Ahearn C.Ss.R

Fr. Denis Gibson died in Bishop Eton in 1958 was one of two brothers his brother was Edward John.

Denis was a chaplain during World War Two and at the end of the war he was stationed with the army, to the best of my recollection in Vienna. And there the Archbishop of Vienna, whether he was a cardinal then or made one a bit later I am not sure, but he wanted to go to Rome, and it was Denis Gibson who managed to smuggle him, as it were, out of the British Sector where he was with the soldiers, on a train that had to pass through the Russian sector and he refused to let the Russian guards examine the coach. He stood at the door of the coach and claimed that it was a British territory, and he brought the Archbishop in that way through the Russian zone to Rome.

As a result of this and in thanksgiving Denis was made an honorary Canon of the cathedral in Vienna and as such could have worn the full canonical robes.