CHAPLAIN IGNORES WOUND TO ASSIST MEN UNDER FIRE

Capt. Rev. S. B. East Said to Have Disregarded Danger During Fighting in Italy

The courage of the tallest padre n the Canadian forces overseas, Capt. Rev. S. B. East, former minister of Wesley United Church, Jarvis, which has become a byword among the Canadian troops fighting their way to Rome, was graphically demonstrated a short time ago on the Italian battlefront. Wounded by bursting shrapnel in the leg, Capt. East disregarded his own danger and ministered to the wounded and dying under terrible shell fire until ordered to retire.



Capt. East

He tied a tourniquet around his injured leg and, when ordered to fall back from the front line to a dressing station, he held the tourniquet with one hand—and walked back.

Throughout the Sicilian and Italion campaigns Capt. East, whose wife is now residing at Toronto, has always been on the scene where he felt his presence most needed, caring for his charges where the fighting was the fiercest and acting as stretcher-bearer when necessary. His gallant service was climaxed recently when he was in the van of the Canadian smash through the steel and concrete fortifications of the Hitler line.

Capt. East was commissioned as second lieutenant with the 41st Field Battery of the 25th (Norfolk) Field Brigade, R.C.A., in January, 1940. When he resigned his commissant commission, he was appointed to the Canadian Chaplain Service. He served as chaplain to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and the P.P.C.L.I. He is now padre to the 48th Highlanders, of Toronto.

Many stories have been dispatched from overseas about Capt. East. One of these, written in September, 1940, described how he gave men of the 2nd Division a chance to see the sights in the Old Land on the proverbial "shoestring."

He enlisted the co-operation of several British organizations which were interested in entertaining and extending hospitality to the Canadian troops, and invited all those on leave and somewhat financially embarrassed to consult him. The response was overwhelming. Some of the men wanted to go to Scotland, others to Ireland and Wales. Capt. East contacted families wanting to entertain the troops in the different parts of the British Isles, and despite the rush, there were more than enough invitations to go around.

"I am exceedingly pleased that these fine young fellows have been able to enjoy themselves so much," the padre said at the time.

One of the high spots in Capt. East's career as padre was when he conducted a Remembrance day service, attended by more than 1,500 officers and men of the 2nd Division in England in 1940. For the service he organized a choir of 25 officers and men.

149
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