

McCreehy, John J.

MAGAZINE ARTICLE
TELLS ABOUT PRIEST

MAR 24 1942
Rev. J. J. McCreehy, Native of
City, Now Chaplain in
Africa.

In a story entitled "A Reporter at Large", appearing in the March 20 issue of the "New Yorker", the writer who has been or still is with the U. S. armed forces at Tunisia, gives an interesting closeup of Rev. John J. McCreehy, a native of Bethlehem, who, as a Catholic chaplain, has the rank of lieutenant and is assigned to the combat forces in that part of the world.

He describes the priest as "short and chubby", and says he comes from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and had been assigned to a parish in Philadelphia. He always referred to the pastor of the parish, Rev. Charles B. McGinley, as "his boss", the writer says.

Chaplain McCreehy, the writer declared, had been officiating at the interment of the fellows killed in a raid the evening before, and "that was all he would talk about during breakfast". He had induced a mechanic to engrave the mens' names on metal plates with an electric needle, the writer said, as these plates would serve as enduring grave markers.

Continuing, the writer said that the priest is the special services officer of the camp, in charge of recreation and the issue of athletic equipment.

He quoted Chaplain McCreehy as saying, "So with one thing and another, they keep me busy here." He told me he did not like New York. "Outside of Madison Square Garden and the Yankee stadium, you can have it."

He wore an outsize tin hat all the time. "I know a chaplain is not supposed to be a combatant", he said, "but if parachute troops come to my tent by night, they'd shoot at me because they wouldn't know I was a chaplain, and I want something solid on my head."

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