

YOST, ISRAEL

Chaplain Israel Yost Honored For Service On Battlefield; Has Won Esteem of Comrades

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Captain Israel A. S. Yost of Nazareth R. D. 3, former pastor of the Hecktown-Farmersville parish of the Lutheran Church and presently serving as chaplain with the 100th Battalion of the 442nd Japanese-American Combat team has again been honored for outstanding service.

The latest honor to be bestowed upon Capt. Yost is the Legion of Merit for exceptional conduct, by the Sixth Army Group in Southern France.

A portion of this citation reads: "The zealousness of Chaplain Yost for the men of this battalion was magnificent. Despite



CAPTAIN ISRAEL YOST

being twice wounded by shell fire in carrying out his duties the chaplain was in no way deterred from his attempts to relieve both physical and spiritual suffering of friend or foe regardless of his position on the battlefield.

"This chaplain is held in such esteem by the personnel of this battalion that the divisional commander promised never to transfer him while the battalion was assigned to that division, even though his seniority entitled him to a better position."

Captain Yost has had an opportunity for missionary work in connection with his duties that few chaplains have had. This opportunity he has used to the fullest extent.

Attached to a unit which was 50 per cent atheist and 25 per cent Buddhist he has made many converts to Christianity. Boy Scout Troop V-45 of Hecktown has aided the captain in his work by sending Testaments to be distributed.

Because of the many extra services that the captain has performed and as long ago as 18 months when the 100th Battalion first went into action in Italy, Chaplain Yost's superior services to the battalion were recognized by Lieut. Col. Far- rant L. Turner, then the commanding officer of the 100th, who wrote:

"I wish to make a matter of record my profound satisfaction with the services you have rendered to the battalion in so many ways.

"You have done things which no chaplain could be required to do. You have repeatedly assisted in the actual care of the wounded and have assisted in their evacuation under heavy shell fire. Your skill and the comfort you have given painfully wounded men have aided materially in their recovery.

"I can truthfully say that no man in the unit is more respected or loved than you are. It has been my pleasure to make a brief note of your qualifications card which expressed my feelings toward you."

During the period from October 15, 1943, to September 8, 1944, Chaplain Yost has given spiritual guidance, made personal contacts and shared the common duties of carrying food, water and medical supplies to the men fighting in the lines dispersed over a wide area.

He is the holder of the Purple Heart and Cluster and the Distinguished Unit Badge, which all of the 100th Infantry Battalion won for their Belvidere-Sasseta action in Italy.

Captain Yost is the son of Mrs. Arthur Sterner of Bethlehem R. D. 1. His wife is the former Peggy Landon of Nazareth. He is the father of two children, Monica and Christian. The son, Christian, was born since Captain Yost left for overseas.

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