

Holton II, George E.

Gorge Holton II Gets British Decoration For Evacuation Work

Amazement that an American boy should be so honored was the chief emotion of George E. Holton II, when Lord Halifax recently presented him with the British Empire medal for bravery under fire, at a reception given in Holton's honor at the British Legation in San Francisco.

Several weeks ago while he was studying photography at the California School of Arts in Los Angeles, notification of the award reached young Holton, accompanied by a request that he appear at the British Embassy in Washington for the presentation. Illness and school work necessitated a postponement of the ceremony.

"Bud," as George is popularly known to his many Bethlehem friends, is the son of Oliver W. Holton of Macada Road, and Mrs. W. H. Johnstone, of Saucon Valley, and the grandson of Mrs. George E. Holton, of Catasauqua. Before volunteering for service in August, 1942, he was a student at Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y. At present he is working in a photography studio in Yosemite National Park.

One month after volunteering, George shipped overseas to serve as an ambulance driver under General Montgomery in Africa and Italy. When the British were slugging it out with the Germans for Termoli, about 100 miles from Rome, Holton and others of his section shuttled back and forth from the front lines to the dressing station in the rear for 44 continuous hours, carrying loads of wounded. Often as they drove between opposing troops, both armies were firing across the roads along which they were driving.

When Holton's ambulance was knocked out, he continued his work with a commandeered ammunition truck, loading the vehicle with wounded and removing them to the

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Amazed Hero



GEORGE E. HOLTON II

rear long after the dressing station had been riddled with shells and the medical officer in charge had refused permission because of the almost unsurmountable risks. Finally the British took Termoli, but during the battle 624 wounded had been removed from the field of action.

Holton, who was invalided in 1945, also served as official photographer for his section of the American Field Service. At the recent reception, he talked with Lady Halifax, who expressed pleasure at meeting an American boy who was with the 8th Army in which both her sons served, one having been killed and the other losing both legs in action on the Western Desert.

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