

PADRE`S POST

Dear George, I offer the following for inclusion in the Christmas news letter. Les (holy Joe—chaplain).

From “battlefield chaplains” by Donald F Crosby :-

PATTON A PRAYER FOR FAIR WEATHER. Composed by his supervising chaplains, James H O'Neill (catholic) and George Metcalf (Anglican);-

Almightily and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech thee, of thy great goodness, to restrain these Immoderate rains with which we have had to contend . Grant us fair-weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us soldiers who call upon thee that, armed with thy power, we may advance from victory to victory and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and establish thy justice among men and nations. Amen .

Padre's post

Rather than go for the easy option of a traditional Christmas message in my first edition, I thought that a few brief details of the exploits of war time padre's would be a good introduction.

ON IWO JIMA— chaplain Charles F Sverer from Oregon conducted mass on mount suribachi immediately after the American flag was raised. Japanese troops were still hiding in nearby caves and the bowl of the volcano. Marines with weapons ready stood guard.

CHAPLAIN FRANCES L SAMPSON, who parachuted into France on the eve of D-Day ,actually lost his communion set in a stream . In the film “The Longest Day” the chaplain played by the late John Gregson, did the same .

THE CRUISER “INDIANAPOLIS” was sank by Japanese submarine on the night of Sunday 29th July 1945. This was the last ship of the American navy sunk enemy fire in world war 2. chaplain Thomas Conway of Buffalo was among those lost.

ON THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS FRANKLIN navy chaplain Joseph Timothy O'Callaghan produced a quart bottle of whiskey in the ward room after the ship had survived bombing attacks and fires caused by the Japanese. Alcohol on ships was strictly against naval regulations. He was the only chaplain in world war 2 to receive the medal of honour.

INLAND FROM THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD chaplain Delbert Kuehl , resting together with members of the 3rd battalion and the Scots guards, attacked by enemy fighter planes coming in with all guns firing. He put down the bible he was reading, grabbed a nearby m1 rifle and fired three rounds at the nearest fighter . Later someone said the plane had been hit and was smoking badly after it passed lines. Evidently his aim was good.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

PADRE.

AN Episcopalian ,Patton read a chapter from bible daily and prayed a lot. “he was not a dedicated churchman and he didn't go every Sunday, but he was very religious” He used to say “prayer was like a muscle, you had to keep exercising and using it to be in good shape”

