Basis for the Award of the Legion of Merit

ISRAEL A. S. YOST, 0511005, Chaplain (Capt.), Chaplain's Corps, for exceptionally meritorious conduct during the period 15 October 1943 to 8 September 1944 in Italy. During the last crossing of the Volturno River about 4 November 1943, Chaplain Yost recovered all bodies in an area known to be mined before the area had been swept in order to bury the bodies before decomposition set in. In the action near POSSI with about 8 November 1943, Chaplain Yost served as an aid-man in addition to his other duties, because of the almost complete elimination of the Medical Battalion Section.

In the action near Coli, between 25 November to 11 December, Chaplain Yost, realizing the precarious state of the Battalion's morale because of the severe climatic conditions during a period of ferocious fighting, held divine services for small groups within thirty (30) yards of enemy positions in a prone position. In this fashion, and others similar, he covered the entire Battalion, holding approximately fifteen (15) services.

In the vicinity of Radiossa and San Michele, 6-15 January 1944, Chaplain Yost carried a pack weighing approximately seventy (70) pounds filled with dry socks, blankets, mufflers, lemonade powder and other items that might be of comfort to men, well or wounded, fighting in snow at elevations over 3000 feet.

In the vicinity of Cassino, 24 January to 21 February 1944, Chaplain Yost again acted as litter bearer, aid-man, chaplain, and supply-man in utter disregard of his own safety. He was found searching unswept mine fields for bodies, and had to be ordered to stop his attempts to recover bodies in the remaining fields.

In the vicinity of Anzio, 24 March 1944 to 23 May 1944, Chaplain Yost continued to give spiritual guidance and make personal contacts, despite the fact that the Battalion installations were wide spread and that his endeavors necessitated his staying up day and night at least three days a week. The zeal of Chaplain Yost for the welfare of the men of this Battalion was magnificent. Despite being wounded twice 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 a Division Commander promised never to transfer him while the Battalion was assigned to that Division, even though his seniority entitled him to a better position.

1ST GORDON SINGLES
Lt Col, 100th Bn, 442d Inf
Commanding

I have personal knowledge of the services rendered by Chaplain ISRAEL A. S. YOST.

7 October 1944
HEADQUARTERS 100TH BATTALION, 442D INFANTRY
APO 758, U. S. Army

7 October 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for the Award of the Legion of Merit.

TO: Commanding Officer, 442d Infantry, APO 758, U. S. Army.

1. Under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, it is recommended that Chaplain ISRAEL A. S. YOST, O511005, (Captain), Chaplain's Corps, be awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct.

2. I have personal knowledge of the services rendered by Chaplain ISRAEL A. S. YOST.

3. The entire service of Chaplain Yost since the performance of the mentioned facts has been honorable.

4. Basis for Award:

ISRAEL A. S. YOST, 0511005; Chaplain (Capt), Chaplain's Corps, for exceptionally meritorious conduct during the period 15 October 1943 to 8 September 1944 in Italy. During the last crossing of the Volturno River about 4 November 1943, Chaplain Yost recovered all bodies in an area known to be mined before the area had been swept in order to bury the bodies before decomposition set in. In the action near Pozzilli about 8 November 1943, Chaplain Yost served as an aid-man in addition to his other duties, because of the almost complete elimination of the Battalion Medical Section.

In the action near Coll, between 25 November to 11 December 1943, Chaplain Yost, realizing the precarious state of the Battalion's morale because of the severe climatic conditions during a period of ferocious fighting, held divine services for small groups within thirty (30) yards of enemy positions in a prone position. In this fashion, and others similar, he covered the entire Battalion, holding approximately fifteen (15) services.

In the vicinity of Radicossa and San Michele, 6-15 January 1944, Chaplain Yost carried a pack weighing approximately seventy (70) pounds filled with dry socks, blankets, mufflers, lemonade powder and other items that might be of comfort to men, well or wounded, fighting in snow at elevations of over 3000 feet.

In the vicinity of Cassino, 24 January 1944 to 21 February 1944, Chaplain Yost again acted as litter bearer, aid-man, chaplain,
and supply-men in utter disregard of his own safety. He was found searching unswept minefields for bodies, and had to be ordered to stop his attempts to recover bodies remaining in the fields.

In the vicinity of Anzio, 24 March 1944 to 23 May 1944, Chaplain Yost continued to give spiritual guidance and make personal contacts, despite the fact the Battalion installations were widespread and that his endeavors necessitated his staying up day and night at least three days a week. The zeal of Chaplain Yost for the welfare of the men of this Battalion was magnificent. Despite being wounded twice 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 a Division Commander promised never to transfer him while the Battalion was assigned to that Division, even though his seniority entitled him to a better position.

Entered military service from: Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Gordon Singles
Lt Col, 100th Bn, 44th Inf
Commanding