

REMARKABLE CONVERSIONS ON THE
BATTLEFIELD.

Father Monsaert, chaplain to the Belgian Army, tells how he gave the crucifix to a dying rabbi. While Father Monsaert and the rabbi were rushing from one end of the trench to the other, administering to the wounded, the rabbi was mortally wounded. At the time he was near Father Monsaert. The latter was attending a soldier. Another soldier rushed to the rabbi's side to carry him back for medical attention. As he was about to pick him up, the rabbi asked for Father Monsaert, who rushed to his side and knelt down. As he did, the rabbi said:

"Father, hand me your crucifix!" and, as it was placed in his hands, he whispered: "Father, I now die happy." Before he could utter another sound, his soul had departed.

A few moments later, when soldiers were being killed and wounded in large numbers, Father Monsaert was called upon to comfort many. An English colonel looked on with his hat in his hand. Father Monsaert was about to depart, when the colonel said:

"There is another here, Father. This time, a well man. I mean myself. After what I have seen, that is the faith for me. I wish to become a Catholic." And he did—there on the battlefield.—*The Ligonian*.

A PRIEST'S HEROISM.

Mr. D. Thomas Curtin in his recent war book, *The Edge of the Quicksands*, thus describes the heroic death an Italian priest bravely met while Padua was being bombarded from the sky:—

"I moved on to where a building just opposite the church had been hit so that the back had crumbled in completely, while the front seemed ready to fall if a good-sized splinter were pulled out from one of the prop beams. Beneath the wreckage a man was pinned, face downward, the weight on his legs and spine. The agony which he suffered almost drove him mad, and his shrieks cut me like saws and knives. A fireman was about to attempt to crawl through to him with a glass of water, when a priest came across from the church, took the glass of water, explained that he was going to crawl through to give the last rites to the doomed man, and turned majestically with a motion for a few onlookers to step back, which we did, until the sparks from the crackling dome fell upon us. We watched the priest crawl amid the wreckage until he could extend the water to the lips of the sufferer; then we saw him hold up the crucifix. We saw no more. There was a grinding crash, the building toppled and became the tomb of the priest and the man for whom he had risked his life."

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