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William Lawrence Hart



1865-06-21–1953-01-06

Born:

Newcastle-on-Tyne, England

Home:

St. Paul, Minnesota

Buried:

Mendota Heights, Minnesota

Cemetery:

Resurrection Cemetery

Born in England, William Hart received his early education in schools in England, Bermuda, and at Saint Michael's College in Toronto, Canada. He received his theological training at Grand Seminary, Montreal, and was ordained a Jesuit priest in December 1896. He emigrated to the United States and became an American citizen on January 14, 1903. He served as pastor of Saint Mark's Catholic Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, before entering military service in November 1919. He first served as a Knights of Columbus chaplain at Camp Funston, Kansas, and then served as a U.S. Army chaplain in France from June 1918 to March 1919.

Awards Received



Silver Star

World War I

Silver Star

World War I

Service: United States Army

Rank: First Lieutenant (Chaplain's Corps)

Regiment: 104th Infantry Regiment

Division:

35th Division, American Expeditionary Forces

Action Date: World War I



Headquarters, 35th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, Citation Orders No. 100 (November 15, 1918)

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved July 9, 1918 (Bul. No. 43, W.D., 1918), First Lieutenant (Chaplain's Corps) William Lawrence Hart, United States Army, is cited by the Commanding General, 35th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, for gallantry in action and a silver star may be placed upon the ribbon of the Victory Medals awarded him. Chaplain Hart distinguished himself while serving as Chaplain with the 104th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division, American Expeditionary Forces. He not only rendered spiritual aid to the wounded, but gathered stragglers together, and by word and example, without regard for his personal safety, encouraged them to action.



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Posted: February 24, 2019 by [Renville County Historical Society](#)

Rev W L Hart Cited for Bravery, Franklin Tribune, 12-19-1918

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Father W.L. Hart

1863 – 1953

The people of this community will be proud to learn that Father W. L. Hart, who was pastor of Franklin, Birch Cooley and Morton parishes for seven years prior to his enlistment in service as an army chaplain, has been cited for bravery in service. We knew very well that Father Hart would not be found shirking his part and we are glad of his recognition for valiant service. The following is taken from the Minneapolis Tribune of Saturday last week:

"Father William L. Hart, for 10 years pastor of St. Marks Catholic church in St. Paul, now a chaplain with the American army in France has been cited for bravery, according to word received in St. Paul yesterday. Father Hart was attached to the 140th infantry and he was cited for bravery by command of Major General Traub and the citation was made by Col. H. S. Hawkings. The citation says that Father Hart in battle on September 26 to October 1, 1918, not only rendered spiritual aid to the wounded but gathered stragglers together and by word and example, without regard to his personal safety, encouraged them to action." St. Paul Dispatch.