

Catholic Heroes OF THE WORLD WAR



By **D. J. RYAN**

(Director, N. C. W. C. Historical Records
Bureau, Central Depository of
Catholic War Data)

MARCUS B. ARMIJO

St. Ignatius' Church, El Paso, Tex., boasts that one of its boys, Marcus B. Armijo, was the first Texan to receive the Distinguished Service cross for an act of extraordinary heroism in the World War.

It might also be said, incidentally, that this soldier was the only member of the A. E. F. to have his ability at smoking cigarettes mentioned in such a solemn and formal document as the citation that accompanies a Distinguished Service Cross.

Marcus Armijo was a member of Co. C, 125th Infantry, 32nd Division. Aug. 5, 1918, his company was under a heavy barrage in the Vesles River territory near Fismes. He was hit by a shell and both legs blown off. Despite this fact, the citation sets forth, "he lifted himself up on his elbow and rolled and smoked cigarettes." "Tailor makes" were scarce just then.

But the citation is not merely frivolous in mentioning the incident of the cigarette. It adds: "By this display of nerve, he conveyed to his comrades an unconquerable spirit of fearlessness, pluck and will-power."

The D. S. C. was a posthumous award. The medal was presented to Marcus Armijo's widow.

(Copyright, 1930, N. C. W. C.)

Marcus B. Armijo
5-1-30