



MAJOR ART. WELCH, D.S.O.

"Perhaps you do not realize it, but the boys overseas, in their spare time, meet in groups, read with keen interest the newspapers from home and letters received and then form themselves into discussion groups and talk about the problems here on the home front, discuss what people are doing, debate post war plans—they know what you have done in past Victory Loan campaigns and what your objectives are; they have a great pride (not particularly in the Nation, Canada or Ontario) in what is actually happening and what people are doing right in their home town, village or municipality" said Major Arthur Welch, DSO, of Sunderland who has just returned from the 8th Army in Italy, when addressing a meeting of Victory Loan officials and salesmen held in the Benson Hotel.

Major Welch was introduced by Rev. R. M. Patterson, formerly of Sunderland who informed the gathering of Major Welch's record in two wars, of his educational and military background, of his prowess in athletics and his high standing in the community he called home.

Major Welch; "The Canadians have been doing a wonderful job. They are thought very highly of in England and in Italy and I am sure the Canadians are held in high respect by Hitler and the Huns, following their fighting in Italy and especially at Ortona—that was a wonderful show, but the Canadians were finally able to blast the Germans right out of the place, causing them many casualties. We were in there for several days, under heavy fire, but the morale of the men did not flicker. In Ortona the houses were all of stone with walls three feet thick and finally to get the Huns out, we had to blow up every house; we had to despatch soldiers, with explosives under their arms, to the individual homes, but we covered them all the way with machine fire. They dropped their explosives in the buildings and the entire structure would blow up."

The speaker paid a high compliment to the bravery of the Canadians and also stated that the equipment used, made in Canada, was the very best; even superior to the American equipment, rated as the best in the world. "And the boys took a great pride in showing off this equipment to visitors and pointing out that it was made in Canada

"We are trying to do our bit over there, but you people here cannot let the boys down. They need more equipment and they need the very best. It is costly, but if one of the largest pieces of artillery are lost,

if one Canadian life is saved, then it is worth while—and that's the way the Canadians over there feel. You people over there provide the finances for the equipment and the boys over there will never let you down."

Major Welch described the optimism of the press in Canada and the States, and even in England. "I think the war is far from being over and far from being won" he said.

He told of the devastation made by German bombers in English towns and cities.

The speaker again referred to the splendid morale and bravery of his men under fire and under all conditions and closed by stating; "They did the work—I wear the medals."

THE D.S.O.

Organized Copus cited to the audience the particular episode which won for Major Welch the DSO to which every man in the audience thrilled.