

Archbishop of Canterbury has given his judgment against it. In a letter addressed to the Bishops of England, he has said :

My Dear Bishop—I have been receiving, like many other Bishops, enquiries from both clergy and laity as to whether it is legitimate and reasonable that clergymen should volunteer for service as combatants. I recognize the *prima facie* arguments which can be used by the younger clergy or by others, on their behalf in support of such action at a moment like the present, and I have given careful attention to a question which some people feel to be a very difficult one. By every line of thought which I have pursued I am led to the conclusion that I have been right in maintaining from the first that the position of an actual combatant in our army is incompatible with the position of one who has sought and received Holy Orders. The whole idea which underlies and surrounds Ordination implies this. We have a calling of our own of a quite specific kind, and throughout the whole history of the Church authoritative expression has been given to the paramount obligation of that calling. Under this obligation those who have been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament ought, even in time of special warfare, to regard that Ministry, whether at home or in the field, as their special contribution to their country's service.

I rejoice to know that from the ranks of the most active of our Clergy there have been offers to serve as Chaplains in the army or navy during the war far more numerous than could possibly be accepted. Those who have been accepted are sharing to the full the brunt of our campaign. Like myself, you must now be giving counsel to Clergy, and especially to younger Clergy, who seek advice in this matter. In giving such advice I have tried to keep in view not only the personal fitness of the particular man for service with troops, but also the claims and opportunities of the Parish, or other work, which he would be leaving. During the coming months, when in every congregation and in every home the hearts of men and women will be opened in a unique degree, and when guidance both spiritual and temporal will be sought and welcomed, the opportunities of helpful service open to an experienced Parish Priest may probably be greater than any that we have known. Other and younger men may be able to use as well or better than you could use it, the sacred opportunity which falls to the Chaplain in the field, and he must be on his guard lest the glamour of that call may lure him from the more prosaic but not less vital work to which he has been solemnly accredited at home. Its unique opportunities will, I believe, grow constantly greater as the days of trial and stress run on. Among his privileges will be the encouragement and help which he can render to those whose husbands, brothers, and sons are fighting for their country's honor, and the rallying of our manhood everywhere to the country's service.

I am,

Yours very truly,

RANDALL CANTUAR.