

of the reasons for the conferment on Lieut. Alessandro Tandura of the Gold Medal for Valour, the highest award for bravery known to the Italian Army :

" Offertosi spontaneamente, per altissimo sentimento patrio, ad una missione estremamente rischiosa irta di difficoltà incredibili e di pericoli continui, la conduceva a termine con sereno ardimento e con fede sagace rendendo segnalati servigi alle truppe operanti."

The dropping of our spy friend and hero was the last piece of active service I was privileged to share in during the War. I received not long after that adventure an urgent note to the effect that in my constituency the Home Front was very hard pressed and that if I did not make some appearance I might forfeit my seat in Parliament. Accordingly I returned to England some eight weeks before the Armistice.

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This story should end here. But I may perhaps be allowed to add that after all I was compelled, most reluctantly, to sever a political connection with East London which had existed in my family for three generations and of which I was very proud. My political service, therefore, was about to come to an abrupt end after thirteen years, when the Burgh of Leith, with true Scottish hospitality, received me as its Member and thus enabled me to resume Parliamentary work, which I have always thought to be, after soldiering in war-time, the most useful and honourable form of public service.