

"The War Front"

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members." Jas. 4:1

Somewhere in Belgium, Jan. 2, 1945

Dear Dr. Watts:

The Lord has given us some great victories for Himself during these many weary months. I have had the joy of leading men into the baptismal waters in Tunisia and in Sicily. We have two candidates now waiting baptism. We had the pleasure of being the first to have a regular radio program for Christ in Africa (Army radio). These programs were beamed to Europe and to America. He has watched over us every moment, and has brought us through some nasty spots. Only He brought me ashore in the Sicilian landings. Time without number He stood beside me as bombs fell near, shells burst near (a few Sundays ago one burst in a tree near us—wounded three and knocked my helmet off.)

Men are turning to God in the Army, but I do not share the belief that "there are no atheists in foxholes." I have seen men who have just escaped death use the name of God in disgrace. I have walked into a mine field to give aid to a wounded officer who had just had his Jeep blown to pieces only to hear that almost every word he spoke was a profane one. By all laws of war he should have died in that Jeep. He has become a close friend of mine, but not of my Christ. I was going after a body one day; we had to go through a lane which might be mined, so I walked in ahead of the truck. I found no mines but the truck did. The driver of this truck was not hurt (he could have been killed); he fouled the air the next few minutes with profanity. Men are turning to drink (the officers) a great deal. The American Army has gone out of its way to provide, for both officers and enlisted men, all sorts of drinks. Officers get their monthly ration of hard drinks, and the men get their weekly ration of beer. Boys who did not drink at home are learning to do so. Just now there is a shortage of rubber over here and of fuel; yet, we send trucks to Paris and other places each month to get these drinks for the men. I found one night one of my own men sleeping (dead drunk) in the snow without clothes—this was in the forward area, not far from the fighting. I got a laugh when I mentioned this to members of my own headquarters. I refused to give his name for they would have punished him—it was they who needed the punishment! This is one of the things that we chaplains have to accept if we hope to carry on for Christ. Our hands are tied by the lack of conviction of most army commanders as to the evil of such things. I fear that too many chaplains share this same attitude. Is our Army and our

WHO IS NEXT?

Dr. Duke K. McCall led out in the campaign to dedicate the various rooms of the proposed Men's Building by sending a check for \$1,000.00. In addition to this he has sent in \$325 for furnishing this room. It will be dedicated to his mother, Mrs. J. W. McCall, Memphis, Tennessee.

There will be approximately 60 rooms available for this purpose. \$200 will furnish a room; \$1,000 will build that room; \$5,000 will build and furnish a guest room or parlor. Perhaps there is someone to whom your church would be interested in erecting a memorial—a former pastor, a deacon, or maybe, a consecrated leader.

If we intend to do it—NOW is the time!

Nation ready for victory?

I am sending a small gift for the Library Building Fund for the School. I wish that it could be larger, but I will try to repeat later. Give my best regards to the "school family."

Alton E. Carpenter,
(Class of '40).

Philippine Islands, Jan. 3, 1945

Dear Fred:

Am in the Philippines and making it worthwhile. Most of the Filipinos, with whom I have become acquainted, can speak English fairly well, although their native dialect is Visayan. English is usually taught in the schools but education ceased during the Japanese occupation. Schools are just now beginning to reopen in towns liberated by the Americans and many of the natives are returning from the hills where they took refuge from the Japanese. The Filipinos are very hospitable. I have visited a number of homes but one cannot say too much for them. They are poorly furnished huts built out of crude lumber, grass, bamboo, and what-have-you. However, nearly every hut has a sewing machine. Perhaps that is why the girls' dresses are made so neat and look so modern. I have not been able to attend a civilian church as 90 per cent of the Filipinos are Catholic. They say that the Protestants have churches, but I have not found one yet.

T. Ralph Alexander.

Somewhere in France, Dec. 21, 1945

Dear Fred:

I know this will reach you after Christmas, but the thoughts are still good. Appreciate the fine work you are doing at B. B. I. Your efforts are certainly point-

ed in the right direction. Have asked my wife to send a total of \$50.00 to the Building Fund. She probably will send the balance of it through McCall Creek (Miss.) Church. Am seeing plenty of action with countless opportunities for service and witnessing. Was promoted to captain on December 1st. May God's richest blessings be upon all of you there.

Eugene I. Farr,
Class of '42.

Saarlantern, Germany, Jan. 10, 1945

Dear Fred:

Congratulations! Am receiving "The B. B. Eye" and think it is a splendid idea for the alumni paper. The first edition that I received was very interesting to me in that it had a letter from Eugene Cross (Class of '42). I saw a picture in a paper before I came overseas of Tilford Junkins (Class of '43) baptizing in Naples, Italy. As for myself, I am in the European theatre with General Patton's Third Army. I have seen quite a bit of action, the main one being the Metz campaign, in which our division had a major part. This is a Jerry typewriter and some of the keys are different from ours, hence the hunt and peck system.

R. Norris Trapnell,
(Class of '42).

Somewhere in England, Jan. 5, 1945

Dear Friends:

It has been my plan to write sooner and thank you for your November issue of the "B. B. Eye". It is always good to hear about the happenings at the Baptist Bible Institute. Your paper is interesting and enjoyable to read. I am sure all who receive it think the same. The paper is an honor to the Lord and a credit to the Institute.

I have been stationed in England almost a year with a Troop Carrier Group. England is quite beautiful with all of its historical surroundings. There are many things in Britain that are physically different from similar things in America. But there are also important similarities, our common laws, and our ideals of religious freedom.

My work as a Chaplain is very interesting, encouraging, and challenging. It is always gratifying to receive such a fine response from the men. Their interest in the Lord and His work is apparent. Men in the Army are serving the Lord.

Extend my greetings and best regards to all the faculty, whom I esteem very highly. Truly the future of the Baptist Bible Institute is as promising as the promises of God.

Jesse W. Wood,
Class of '40.