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Trinity Flash Newsletter, February 1945

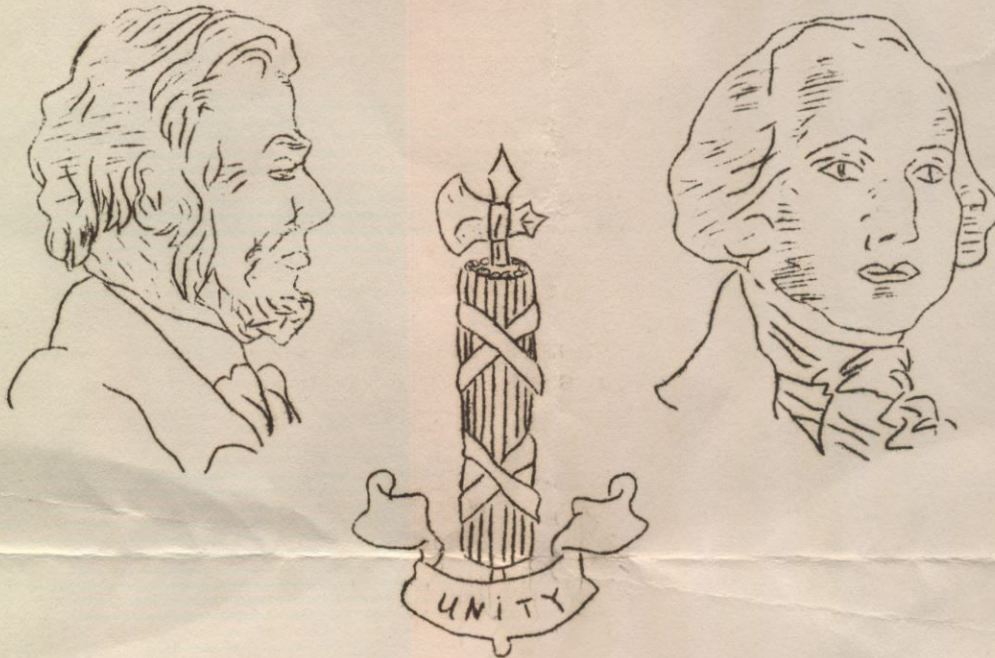
Genevieve Mouw

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TRINITY FLASH

FEBRUARY
1945



In Unity there is strength,
Our greatest strength is in God;

There Always Will Be God

They cannot shell His Temple
Nor dynamite His Throne,
They cannot bomb His city
Nor rob Him of His own.

They cannot cause Him panic
Nor cut off His supplies,
They cannot take His Kingdom,
Nor hurt Him with their lies.

Though we face war and struggle
And feel their goad and rod,
We know above confusion
There always will be God.

--A.L. Murray

Feb. '45

SERVICEMEN'S NEWS

Capt. Ralph Mouw writes in his last letter: "We are enjoying a much needed rest, or going through what the Army calls rehabilitation. It is the first rest we have had in about 230 days from actual fighting so it does seem a bit strange not to hear the sounds of battle."

Pfc. Roy Lubbers who is stationed on Horn Island writes, "There is no Chaplain for us on the Island but there is an opportunity to go to Biloxi, Miss. or Mobile, La. to attend services in the Presbyterian Church there. We leave the island Saturday evening by boat and return early Monday morning. It takes about an hour and a half to make the trip. In both of these churches much is done for the service men."

On January 12th, Pvt. Donald Foreman, who has been serving in the First Army and has been on the Belgium battlefields for a long time, was promoted to Sergeant.

A/S Irwin Kraai has recovered the money that we reported missing in the last Trinity Flash. Since we have no details, we do not know whether it was something serious or whether it was a naval prank

It is reported that F 1/c George Tolman was in on the Philippine invasion forces.

Lt. Elwin Muilenburg serving in the infantry in the European theatre has recently made a dangerous river crossing under fire.

Merlyn W. Kraai PhM 3/c is a member of a beach battalian with the Medical Corp. After landings are made this corp of workers go in to care for the wounded and then report back to their ship. Mert writes that he received many Christmas and Birthday cards from Trinity people for which he is very grateful and he hereby wishes to thank all the people for them.

Sgt. Albert J. Heemstra has arrived safely in the Philippines. He was deeply impressed by the hearty welcome the Americans received from the Filipinos. He says he has had some very interesting conversations with Filipino guerillas, some of whom had been in prison camps and later had escaped into the hills. One had remarked, "How can I forget the Americans when they have given me eyes to see and a mind to understand."

Ens. Gerald Kraai is in the Luzon drive and in enemy waters most of the time. He has been promoted to Asst. Navagation Division Officer and Asst. Communication officer. He is on a supply convoy, and gets to port only for loading. He has been in the Saipan Islands and found it plenty rough. He is very well and hopes it will be over soon. He has not received any Christmas packages yet.

After a few weeks absence from the Hospital, Paul Muyskens again finds himself back there. A few weeks ago Paul had the privilege of having his father come up to see him. He, however, was not in the Hospital at that time.

Raymond Heemstra, A.S., had the thrill of having his first liberty since entering the service, spending his time in Spokane, Washington.

Cpl. Ivan Muilenburg is a member of Patton's Army. He is with an Anti-Aircraft battery. His last report states that he is in Luxembourg. His quarters are in a two-room house that has been shelled out. The windows have been boarded up. One room serves as sleeping quarters for the men and the other room serves as kitchen.

Frank Heemstra SoM 3/c has been transferred to another Naval Base.

On the 18th of January, Staff Sergeant Lawrence E. Van Wyk of the 42nd Rainbow Division received a Battle field commission of 2nd Lt. He also received the combat Infantry Badge. According to the news the 42nd Rainbow Division is now a part of the 7th U.S. Army in France.

Pvt. John G. Heemstra graduated on Jan. 13 from a school for reconditioning Instructors. The physical reconditioning program is a new department in the Army Medical Corps which began last March. John has been sent on Special Duty as physical reconditioning instructor to Madigan General Hospital at Ft. Lewis, Washington awaiting a more permanent assignment.

We have asked Pvt. Gerard Mulder to write a letter or something about his work. It follows:

Judging from the letters written by other servicemen in the Flash, we are to write a story of the work we do. I am stationed in San Francisco and working with a comparatively new unit of the Army, the Transportation Corps. My insignia shows a large steering wheel of a boat, and that's what I operate, a boat. Two men are needed to operate these boats, which are approximately 40 feet long. It is built much like a small house boat, with cabin furnished with small kitchenette, and bedroom. Each crew has charge of keeping its boat in order, keeping it polished, etc. Our boats are used mainly for the purpose of inspection of the harbor. I have visited Alcatraz and other small islands in the harbor. The San Francisco harbor is an enormous thing and hard to explain to anyone who has not seen it. War time, of course, has increased its business and activity. We often see battleships anchored in the harbor after returning from battle. Troop ships too, are very numerous. Our Transportation crew is an independent unit from Fort Maxon and we live and work right on the harbor. We are only 3 blocks from downtown San Francisco. Our work is interesting, even though the continual rain makes it very miserable at times.

Gerard Mulder

Feb. '45

Concerning Our Prisoners of War

To date, Feb. 15, 1945, we have not heard whether or not Cpl. Glenn Beyer has been freed from the Japanese Prison Camp No. 4 at Manila. We hope and pray that he may be one of those who have been liberated. This noon, Clay Rusk in giving the news over station WHO said that the reason no more of the relatives of the Japanese held prisoners have heard is because the lists of liberated prisoners have not yet arrived in Washington. This week it is four years ago that Glenn left for training in Des Moines.

Concerning S/Sgt. James Mulder, his sister, Doris, writes as follows: "On the 23rd of December we received two letters from Jim, both written in Sept. In these he said he was well and had met Jimmy Vander Kooi of Hull. We are glad that he has found a friend, since the entire time he has spent overseas he had not seen a Sioux County man. Jim is in an airmen's camp, called Stalag Luft 4, a subsidiary camp of Stalag Luft 3. Both Jimmy and Jim were tail gunners on their planes. As mail to or from prisoners takes around three months, we hope that Jim has now received some of our mail and packages, as we were able to write him as of last Sept."

Special Prayer Meeting in Trinity Reported by Mrs. Dick Muilenburg

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 7, 1945, we had a special Prayer Meeting which was for you, servicemen. As the war enters the stage where many of you must encounter the enemy on his own ground and no doubt experience the fierceness of his hatred, we at home felt a special need of praying for you.

Rev. Ongna chose II Samuel 23 for the Scripture passage, emphasizing the 20th verse. It records the names of thirty-seven of David's brave men of war (incidentally we have about that many). The 20th verse tells of one, Benaiah by name, of whom it is said, "he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow". He compared this with our armies encountering the enemy, who is fierce as a lion on his own territory in the time of snow. How much courage and bravery it takes to face the foe as he desperately fights to defend his own land!

As we were thinking of the courage it takes, our pastor reminded us of the way to the throne of God which is always open. To those who believe, He gives grace in time of need. His ears are ever open to our cries. What a comfort that is!

After closing his remarks, our pastor read the names of you Servicemen so that we would have you all in mind as we entered upon a season of prayer. No time was lost but many were moved by the Spirit to pray and plead before the throne of God for you boys. Some of you are possibly in great bodily dangers, others in spiritual dangers. No needs were overlooked but all brought before the throne of Grace. The prayers were interspersed with hymns such as "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross", "Never Alone Is The Christian", and many others.

We left the meeting feeling God was there. Our Faith was strengthened, God would keep watch over His own.

CHURCH NEWS

On the evening of Christian Endeavor Sunday, January 28th, the C.E. Societies of the American and Trinity Churches had an exchange of speakers. Mr. Clarence Balkema spoke in Trinity C.E. and Rev. Ongna spoke in the American Church C. E. The topic for Christian Endeavor Week this year was "Youth Serves".

This week Trinity will see two more of her men leaving for military service. They are Jack Broelsma and Marion De Graaf. Marion and his family have been worshipping with us for the last several months. At the time when this Flash is going to press we are awaiting their letter of transfer from the Methodist Church of Harlan, Iowa.

Chaplain Lloyd De Jong has now been transferred to the Marine Air Base at Newport, Arkansas. Before coming to Arkansas he was serving at the largest Marine Air Base in the U.S. at Cherry Point, North Carolina. At the time of his departure he was trying to render spiritual service to some 5000 men.

One of the members of Trinity Church has suddenly passed on. Mr. George G. Van Roekel died of a heart attack on January 26. The funeral services were held in the First Reformed Church to accomodate the large crowd. Rev. Ongna based his sermon on the text found in Psalm 103:15-17. The Trinity Church choir of which Mrs. Van Roekel has been the director for over a year sang very toughingly, "In the Hour of Trial, Jesus Plead for Me". We hereby express deep sympathy to Mrs. Van Roekel and her three children. Audrey is a Cadet Nurse at Iowa City. Shirley and Bob are attending school at Alton.

On February 18th there will be Baccalaureate and Commencement Exercises in Des Moines of the Iowa Methodist School of Nursing. On that evening Anna Marie Lubbers will receive her R.N. signifying her promotion to a Registered Nurse.

One evening when the street east of the Church was in just the right condition for coasting, the C.E. members and a few friends came together to enjoy a social which was in the form of a sliding party. Due to the cold weather we couldn't stay out too long so the remainder of the time was spent in playing games in the Church basement.

Last Sunday we had a Gideon speak in the afternoon service. Mr. Nittard Aalfs, a Christian business man of Sioux City, who is a member of the Iowa Gideons, spoke in personal testimony and of the work of the Gideons. This insternational society gives out about 90,000 Gideon New Testaments every week to the Servicemen as of late. A special offering was taken for this Bible and Testament distribution work and in Trinity this offering amounted to \$106.30.

Feb. '45

ADDRESSES OF SERVICEMEN

Cpl. Glenn Beyer, American POW
Military Prison Camp # 4
Philippine Islands
Via: New York, N.Y.

S/Sgt. Jim W. Mulder
U.S. POW 2253
Stalag Luft 3 Stalag Luft 4
Germany

S/Sgt. Willard Lubbers, 37078505
Co. A 813th Eng. Avn. Btn.
Geiger Field, Washington

2nd Lt. Lawrence Van Wyk, 02006226
Co. B. 232nd Inf.
APO 17797 % Postmaster
New York, New York

Capt. Ralph J. Mouw, 01171294
Hq. Btry. 980 F.A. Bn.
APO 857 % Postmaster
New York, New York

Sgt. Mike Westra, 37126099
184 Q.M.D. Co. APO 758
% Postmaster, New York, New York

Pfc. Roy J. Lubbers, 17042968
Horn Island Installation C.W.S.
Pascagoula, Miss.

Lt. Elwin Muilenburg, 01325409
Co. I 10th Inf.
APO 5 % Postmaster
New York, New York

Lt. Jacob L. Foreman, 0803176
Class 44-4-1 L.A.A.F.
Liberal, Kansas

S/Sgt. W. Dale Kraai, 37427965
1108th A.A.F. Base Unit CRBD ATC
APO 857 % Postmaster
Miami, Florida

Sgt. Albert Heemstra, 37483598
269th Replacement Co.
12th Repl. Bn.
Base M. APO 72 % Postmaster
San Francisco, California

Cpl. Harvey De Kock
B.M.C. II 3 Flight 1 Sect. B
Boca Raton Field, Florida

T/5 Robert Vis
2320 McKinley Street
Clinton, Iowa

Pfc. Gerard Mulder
Harbor Boats Pier 17
San Francisco 11, California

Erwin Kraai A/S
Co. 4 Platoon A
Fell Hall
Normal, Illinois

Sgt. Donald G. Foreman, 37692669
Co. I 393rd Inf.
APO 449 % Postmaster
New York, New York

Lt. Nelson Kraai, U.S.N.R.
238 Alabama St.
Vallejo, California

Frank W. Heemstra, SOM 3/c
A.S.W. Development Det.
Fort Everglades
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Cpl. Ivan Muilenburg, 37478605
549 A.A.A. (Auto Wpns. Bn.)
APO 403 % Postmaster
New York, New York

Cpl. Kenneth Beyer
U.S. Naval Hospital
Ward 12
San Leandro, California

Pvt. John Gilbert Heemstra
A.S.N. 37772552
Phy. Recond. Instr.
Sec. 3 Madigan Gen. Hospital
Fort Lewis, Washington

Ens. L. M. Van Peurse
U.S.S. L.S.T. # 213
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Aalfred Aalberts, Rdm. 3/c
Cecil A.P.A. 96 Div. C.I.C.
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Calvin Groen S 2/c
N.A.T.T.C., Brks. 70
A.O.M. Class 25A45
Norman, Oklahoma

Merlyn W. Kraai, Ph. M. 3/c
U.S.S. Rockwell A.P.A. # 230
Division H % Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

George Tolman, F 1/c
U.S.S. Uvalde AKA 88 E/Div.
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Pvt. Paul Muyskens, 37775098
Co. "C" 64th Trg. Btn.
13th Training Regiment
Camp Fannin, Texas

Raymond J. Heemstra, A.S.
Co. 3075 - 44 Camp Waldron
U.S.N.T.C.
Farragut, Idaho

Cpl. Phillip W. Mow
Sec. A. Sub. Sec. 2
263 AAFBU Harding Field
Baton Rouge, La.

Robert Malisch - Medical Discharge

Edward De Haas - Medical Discharge

Raymond Wierda - Medical Discharge

Ens. G. J. Kraai
U.S.S. Kankakee
San Francisco, Calif.

Editorial Letter

Dear Servicemen:

We hope that by the time you have read thus far you may have decided that this Flash is full of news and that it is a welcome visitor. I suppose I could almost take for granted that by the time you have read thus far you might not be interested in what I have to say by way of this letter. However, I dare to have more faith in the product we are putting out and in your desire to have that product.

I have just one item of news that did not appear in the news section but that I would like to report. Since we issued the January Flash our Associate Editor, Harriet De Jong, has had to say goodbye to her boy friend, Orville Kuiken, who was called to the Service. We expect that from now on Trinity Flash will also be sent to Orville and you can see, men, how my Associate Editor will be much interested in producing good issues. The entire staff is cooperating nicely.

As a closing spiritual thought for this issue I would like to focus attention on the thought - "There Always Will be God". In Rev. 22:13 we read, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

The New Testament was written in the Greek language. The first letter of that alphabet begins with "alpha". It ends with "omega". We sometimes say, "from A to Z". That is what Jesus says He is. If we send our thoughts back in the beginning of all things, there was God the Creator. If we think ahead, we can not be sure of very many earthly things, but according to our text, "There Always Will Be God". Things of time pass away but not God. Jesus Christ the Son of God is an Eternal Being.

How wonderful it is then to know Him! How blessed to own Him as our Savior and Friend! To know and love Him is life Eternal. Dear friends in the Service, hold on to God. He will hold on to you if you only put your trust in Him for time and eternity.

Sincerely,

Your friend and pastor,
R. J. Ongna