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Trinity Flash Newsletter, March 1945

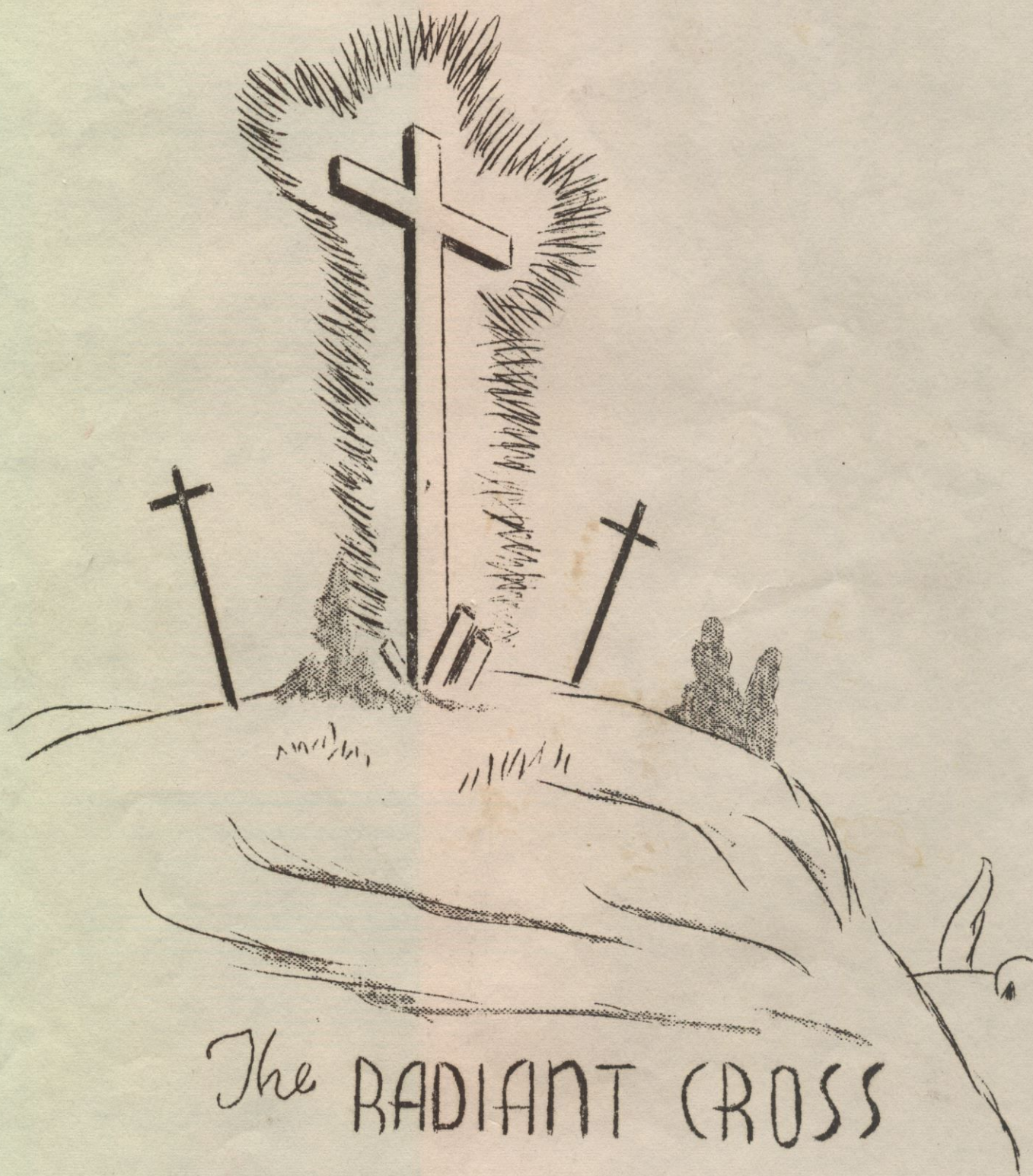
Genevieve Mouw

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TRINITY FLASH

MARCH 1945



The RADIANT CROSS

Our Pastor's Editorial Letter:

Dear Friends in the Service,

With this issue of the Flash we send our sincere wishes that the message of Good Friday and Easter may fill your hearts with spiritual satisfaction and comfort. On the Cross our Savior said, "It is finished". Therefore we can sing, "Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!"

Easter presents a message of life beyond the grave. The glorious message, "He is not here. He is risen," runs through our minds and hearts with new meaning and significance as we consider the present dangers through which so many are passing. The message for man is that there is Eternal Life for every man that puts his faith in Christ our Living Savior.

We rejoice and give thanks that thus far our Service Flag has no gold stars. However, news has come to us recently that makes us feel that there is a high possibility that one of ours has been called to sacrifice his earthly life for the cause.

The news came to us like this. Stanley Frericks who is on Leyte wrote to his folks that he had talked with a liberated prisoner who had worked with Cpl. Glenn Beyer in the prison camp. He said that Glenn was on the last Japanese ship that left for Formosa and had been sunk by American planes.

Now this is shocking news, but I am sure that you men realize that we cannot consider this absolutely final, although it appears that way. If final news confirms this report we are prepared to say with Christ in Gethsemane, "Not my will but Thine be done". We pray for resignation to the Father's will. We are assured that Glenn was ready for this, for in his last letter he wrote, ".....to doubt God's works is sin".

Men, I make one request of you all. Pray for yourself, for your fellow Servicemen, and for us at home, that we may all experience great spiritual victories. Christ has died for us and He rose from the dead to assure us of His power to give Everlasting Life to all those who trust Him. We all need faith and courage. We have some. We desire more in order that we may always have complete spiritual victory through Christ.

My prayer for you and for us is -- "Oh Christ, help us to live in the light of Thy Cross and in the power of Thy resurrection."

Your friend and pastor,
R. J. Ongna

* * * * *

On February 26th the funeral services for Missionary Wm. Vander Meer were held in Trinity Church. Thus a son of Trinity went home after serving in the Amoy Mission in China since 1920. After being interned by the Japanese he was privileged to go home on the Grips-holm just last summer. He was home to help celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of his parents in Alton. We express sympathy to the bereaved parents, wife and children. Our hearts are filled with holy joy to see such a manifestation of genuine faith and trust in God as evidenced by the bereaved. While China has lost a consecrated worker Heaven has gained a soul redeemed by the blood of Christ.

We are happy to report some new members of Trinity. They are: Miss Mildred Ver Steeg from the American Church in Hull, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Roetman and Nelva Mae from the Free Grace Church of Middleburg, and Mr. & Mrs. Marion De Graaf and Faye Joan and Shirley Mae from the First Methodist Church of Harlan, Iowa.

Cpl. Phil Mouw sprang a surprise on Mr. & Mrs. P. W. De Jong and Helen at Houston, Texas. He was enroute from Baton Rouge, La. to Brownsville, Texas.

Capt. Ralph Mouw is the Battalion Reconnaissance and Intelligence Officer. This job requires him to go forward quite a bit of the time both on Reconnaissance and to determine the enemy's situation. Another part of the job is the establishing of Observation Posts for the purpose of observing enemy activity across the lines.

Office of the Quartermaster General: Washington D.C.
Major M. A. Beyer writes home that he had one of the Carlsbad boys over for dinner. This boy was his orderly at Fort Bliss. He was on a Jap prison ship when the U. S. Navy torpedoed it. But he managed to escape. He had been a prisoner for over two years. His one wish is to get back and get some more Japs.

Ensign Leon Roggen is somewhere in the South Pacific with an amphibious unit. He received his training at the Amphibious Training Base, Coronado, California. He writes that the mail is coming through very irregularly which is discouraging because it's the one thing that really keeps them going.

Edward De Haas - H.D. is now living at Abilene, Kansas, doing defense work there.

Sgt. Donald Foreman writes home that he is having a rest in Belgium. He is living in a barn up in the hay mow. The barn is connected to a house, in which a family of Belgium people live. These people have cow, calves, sheep, hogs, chickens and horses. He had his first taste of fresh milk since leaving the states. He also adds that these people speak a little German and that's where his Dutch comes in handy occasionally.

Lt. J.g. Laurence De Cook is somewhere between Guam and Iwo Jima and sees plenty Japs. He's in radio work and is getting along fine. He has not seen any of the boys from the states that he knows.

Tech. Sgt. William Langstraat is with the recovery section of the Ordnance Company and at present is still in England getting ready for the next move.

Mrs. Chris. Jacobs, nee Griselda De Haas, and daughter have left us to join her husband, Pvt. Chris M. Jacobs. Pvt. Jacobs is in the Signal Corp and is baker for the M. P. Unit stationed at Fort Custer, Michigan.

S/Sgt. Willard Lubbers was recently home on furlough from Geiger Field, Washington. He spent one of the week-ends in Des Moines with his sisters, Genevieve and Anna Marie. He there met Pfc. Roy J. Lubbers of Horn Island, Mississippi, who was granted a four day emergency leave to meet Willard. The two brothers had not seen each other for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. Willard had to report back at Geiger Field.

Alfred Aalberts Rdm. 3/c took part in the Iwo Jima Invasion. He said that during the communion Service held the day before the Invasion many prayers ascended to God's throne by lips that had never prayed before. Many partook of the Holy Sacraments for the first time (Separated by thousands of miles Alfie and Esther are now reading the Psalms for daily devotions. Sailor Aalberts writes that Ps. 27 was of great comfort on the day of invasion.)

Mar. '45

Dear Servicemen,

I have been asked to write a letter to our servicemen and I am glad to do so as two of the servicemen of our church are my boys. But writing to my own boys is just a little easier than to someone else. There's always plenty doing around home to interest James and Gerard and it would be of no interest to someone else.

But I do want you to know we all miss you very much and look forward to the day when you can all come home. That will be a day of Thanksgiving.

I am sure this war has brought grief and sorrow to more than one home but it has brought souls to Christ. Many have prayed who otherwise had neglected those important things.

It is almost a year ago that James arrived in England and so much has happened since then. Last year at Easter he went to an old English church there and remarked they had an old reed organ that they sang by. But the church was full of service boys as it was also on Good Friday. Now it is again near Easter and we don't know just where he is but I'm sure he's thinking too of last year.

After being in the Army almost 14 months, Gerard got his first furlough. It was very much enjoyed by us all, though as usual, the time went by quickly. He went back to San Francisco but he writes that he is being transferred out of that outfit the last of March. He doesn't know where he is to go or what he will be assigned to do.

I am sure the Lord will care for all our boys. It's our faith that gives us strength these days when we long so much for just a few lines to know each one is alright. We realize your task is far from easy but, you know, as that beautiful hymn says:

Be not dismayed whate'er betide
God will take care of you.
Beneath his wings of love abide
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail
God will take care of you.
When dangers fierce your path assail
God will take care of you.

All you may need he will provide
God will take care of you.
Nothing you ask will be denied
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test
God will take care of you.
Lean, weary one, upon his breast
God will take care of you.

And so we pray for you all that before another Easter time comes again we may be joined together and be able to worship together in our own church.

And now may God bless you and keep you safe.

Mrs. Y. Mulder

Lt. J. Elwin Muilenburg, who is in Germany with the 3rd Army recently sent home a souvenir he collected in the form of a German knife which looks like a first class hunting knife. The swastika on the handle gives us a grim reminder of the symbol of aggression. But, here is one knife that will not cooperate in that bloody business of aggressive warfare against us.

Pvt. John Heemstra is in the Madigan Hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington and is awaiting assignment.

Frank Heemstra SOM 3/c is at the Sangamo Electric Co. at Springfield, Illinois studying instruments in the field of electronics.

Raymond Heemstra S 2/c was one of the last company to graduate from Farragut. The camp is closing up. Five of the six camps at Farragut have already closed up. The reason for closing Farragut is at present unannounced.

Cpl. Harvey De Kock is at present awaiting overseas orders.

Our last two men to be inducted into the service are stationed as follows: Pvt. Marion De Graaf at Fort Riley, Kansas, and Pvt. John Brolsma at Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Mike Westra in a supply depot in France is constantly on the move.

Pvt. Paul Muyskens is recovering from illness at Camp Fannin, Texas.

Donald Van Beek A/S is recovering from rheumatic fever in the Naval Hospital at Great Lakes.

S/Sgt. Dale Kraai who is in South America writes something interesting about the natives there. Dale's parents sent him some popcorn. When he received it the natives began to help themselves eating the raw kernels. Imagine how their eyes popped when Dale popped the corn.

Lt. Edwin J. Aalberts in the South Pacific recently had an interesting discussion with the Captain of a Dutch ship. Edwin was the guest of honor of the Captain at a meal on the ship at which he reports there was "a moments pause before and after the meal for "Grace". The Captain's name De Jong.

Mrs. J. Grove (Charleen Korver) is making her home in Orange City while her husband is overseas. Flight Officer Grove is a pilot on a C-47 and will transport wounded soldiers to hospitals.

Richard Herwynen arrived home last week Tuesday, March 6. After being in a hospital for some time with stomach ulcers, he was given a medical discharge from Camp Cooke, California.

On Friday, March 16, Miss Alene Mulder left for Denver, Colorado where she will receive her training to become a Cadet Nurse.

Cpl. Ivan Muilenburg is with General Patton's Army in Germany.

Gerard Mulder writes that he expected to see quite a sight on the 8th of March--the return of the prisoners of war recaptured on Luzon. They were to come in on the pier next to his own. A big parade and celebrations were planned and the pier decorated with flags. Boats were to go out and meet the ship carrying bands on them.

Cpl. Kenneth Beyer writes to the effect that the town was mad with joy when these liberated prisoners arrived in San Francisco.

Mumps, Mumps and more Mumps. That is what you boys would be hearing and seeing if you were in the Orange City vicinity. In fact it is so bad, that the Health Officers are running out of signs, so they must use the next best signs, which are Measles. They take a big piece of wrapping paper and paste it over the Measles sign and in very large letters, and dark ink, print - MUMPS -. Old and young are afflicted with the disease.

Mar. 43

We have asked Mrs. J. G. Mouw to report on the Missionary Rally held in Trinity Church:

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1945, we had our usual prayer service but it was a most unusual meeting. In fact, I consider it the most far-reaching prayer meeting Trinity has ever had thus far. For while we have always felt the burden or prayer for others, this evening we would decide whether or not we were ready in our efforts to have a share in a missionary project and in a tangible way show that we had heard and heeded the Divine command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel".

Oh how we wished all you soldier boys could have been there too. No one there will ever forget that meeting, I hope.

We gathered in the main auditorium. Our pastor, Rev. Ongna, presiding, read John 4:31; Matt. 28: 18-20; Acts 1:8 and Romans 10: 13-15.

The Choir sang the anthem very beautifully. Then the purpose and plan of meeting was explained by the pastor.

Our missionaries, sons and daughters of the church, had been informed about this meeting and at this time their letters were read. We heard from Rev. Gt. De Jongs from Arabia, Rev. & Mrs. Peter Van Es of Macy, Miss Jeane Noordhoff, and the Rev. Wm. Vander Meer. (deceased)

Then a letter was read from Rev. & Mrs. John P. Muilenburg. Now you boys haven't heard much of these friends, but they are the ones whom God has appointed to go to China and for whose partial support we would like to be responsible.

Rev. Veenschoten gave an address based on Romans 1:3. Our heart were truly stirred as he told of his labors for the Lord and of the work with Rev. Wm. Vander Meer, who just two days before had been laid to rest. Somehow we didn't feel the missionary plan frustrated by his going but we did feel greater responsibility in carrying on where he left off.

After this we had a short season of prayer and while there were not so many audible prayers we felt there were many there praying that only God could hear and we knew He was right there in our midst.

After this Rev. Ongna called the congregational meeting to order and presented the great challenge that is facing every church of God today; "What will you do for Jesus, in bringing the lost, in the darkness of sin, to the light." Sometimes important events like this need a great deal of urging but not that night.

Almost at once the motion was made and seconded that we take a unit for the support of Rev. John P. Muilenburg, who today is at Cornell University preparing for his work in China. It was unanimously carried.

H. L. Van Wyk, Secretary, was called to come forward and was given the order to sign the certificate while the audience remained standing.

The offering was taken, and amounted to \$470 (approximately). Some were not prepared to give that night but opportunity was given for this last Sunday. That was a good offering but that was not the high light of the evening.

The greatest event was when Rev. Ongna read the letter he had received from Harriet Muyskens. Harriet told of her plan, God willing, to go out as a foreign missionary. Truly we were humbled. God has been so good to us. Harriet is the first; who will be the next?

I have tried to tell you of this meeting hoping you will share the inspiration with us.

Rev. Veenshoten closed with prayer and benediction and we went home rejoicing.

My Rainbow of Prayer

There's a rainbow that reaches to heaven
It's my beautiful rainbow of prayer
It carries my love to the Father above
Then on to my boy over there.

This rainbow can span the wide oceans
No cannon can break its strong line
Where e'er he may be--on land or on sea
It will reach to that dear boy of mine.

May he cling to his end of the rainbow
And send back his prayer and his love
For it means oh so much--Just to know he's in touch
Everyday with our Saviour above.

Let our prayers from each end of the rainbow
Arching up to the heavenly throne
Draw us closer each day in a spiritual way
Make us feel we are truly Christ's own.

May his heart keep with Christ as he follows
The Banner of freedom unfurled
May he hear Jesus say--I am with you alway
Even unto the end of the world.

Original

in Box

Handwritten signature/initials