

RELIGION

IN

THE

FOX HOLE



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By  
**J. T. DRYE**

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It gives me great pleasure to write the introduction to this book, "Religion in the Fox Hole."

The author of this book was saved from a life of sin to a life of Christian usefulness. Rev. J. T. Drye was wonderfully converted before entering the armed forces, and his religion worked in the fox hole. He was wounded in action but never lost sight of his Christ.

To know the author of this book is to love him; to be associated with him as I have is to believe in him. He is a Christian gentleman.

This little book carries a message that every one ought to read and I highly recommend "Religion in the Fox Hole." to all my friends.

Rev. C. B. Fugett

"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say; If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 124:1-8)

Let us turn to Second Corinthians the first chapter and the tenth verse from which we lift a text for this little book. "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."

I would like to talk to you just a little while upon the great subject which God gave me while I was over-seas; not something that I read out of a book, not something that some other man told me, but something that God impressed upon my own heart—these three words: "God delivered me."

To be delivered from a burning building or from any kind of danger makes a man's heart rejoice greatly. I remember sometime ago a great tragedy happened in Cincinnati; a large building collapsed pinning some thirty or thirty-five men under the rubbish of those huge tiers. I remember, as I was just one block away, listening to the man on the radio tell how those men fell down under that trapped building. Many of them were dead, but there was one that the man was talking to who hadn't been rescued. He asked, "Are you alright?" He said, "Yes I'm all right, but I want to come out of here, I want to get out!" In a few minutes the man was recovered from the building which he had been pinned under for thirty hours. They brought him through that large crowd that was standing on the streets; he wasn't hurt, but

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he was weak, he lifted his hand with a million-dollar smile on his face. What was the matter with that man? He had been delivered from that building that had collapsed in Cincinnati and his heart was rejoicing to see the beautiful sunlight again and to know that he had been delivered from such danger.

There are many other instances of deliverance of which we could talk to you, but, as you know, it is one of the greatest things besides salvation, for a man to be delivered from tragedy upon this old earth. It makes his heart rejoice. Now we want to talk to you on a different deliverance a while.

Let us look at the children of Israel down there in Egypt under bondage of Ol' Pharaoh. They labored under the hot sun in Egypt day and night and the captains and governors would whip them when they wouldn't turn out enough work to satisfy Pharaoh. God spoke to his servant Moses and said, "Moses, I have heard the cries of my people down there in Egypt. I want you to go down there and lead them out and I'll go with you." Moses argued a long time with the Lord before he decided to go down. You know, sometimes we as Christians argue around and beat around the bush many times before we will obey the great voice of God. God help us as Christians to obey the spirit of God.

The Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush and said, "Moses, take off your shoes, because this is holy ground where thou standest." Thank God, ol' Moses, after a long time of arguing with the Lord, finally obeyed and started down to Egypt. I see him as he gets there and God told him, "If you will go I will be with you." I see there the great first plague that came upon Egypt—bloodstained water and ol' Pharaoh still hardening his heart and refusing to let the children of Israel go and then the great plague of frogs came upon the land, but he still wouldn't

anything so horrible as the lice that were all over the country and let them go. God filled the whole land with lice. There wasn't in the houses, in the people's hair and everywhere else, but Pharaoh still hardened his heart and wouldn't let them go. Then God sent that great plague of flies, and then he sent along the other plague of boils and the murrain, etc. I'll tell you, when the Pass-over took place, then the death angel came. Pharaoh was ready to let the children of Israel and all the cattle and everything they had go out of his country. Thank God, Moses led them out of there abreast. The scripture tells us, that they went out and went not by the way of the Philistines lest they would see war and cause their hearts to faint and they would turn back to Egypt, but God led them a long way, around by the Red Sea and through the wilderness.

I see them as they are kept there on the banks of the Red Sea, Pharaoh's great army was pursuing after them, but God had led them by a cloud by day and fire by night. I see them as they are kept there, they can hear the horses and they can hear the chariots of ol' Pharaoh as they are coming, but God spoke to their heart, "O fear not." What did the angel of the Lord do? I'll tell you: that cloud that had been leading them by day moved in behind them, in between the children of Israel and between ol' Pharaoh and his army. The scriptures tell us, that it was dark to ol' Pharaoh and his army, but it was light to the children of Israel. There we see a picture of darkness and light. Oh, it caused that great army to bog down and not to move. They were against the Red Sea: the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh behind them. What would they do? What will you and I do when we get up against it and it seems like we can't go any farther, when it seems our face is up against the brick wall?

Just keep looking up and trusting God and He will always make a way for us no matter what comes or goes.

All of the children of Israel feared that they would be overtaken by Pharaoh and all die there in the wilderness, but Moses said unto the people, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today; for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." (Exodus 14:13) Moses lifted his hand and I can see the great sea as it rolled back like a scroll and the wind blew there all night long. The scriptures say that the children of Israel all marched through, all of their cattle and all of their children marched through on dry land that night. You know many people tell us today that they crossed somewhere at a narrow place, or that they didn't cross, or God never rolled the water back, but I'll tell you we still have the same God as they had then. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

I can see the children of Israel after they got on the other side of the Red Sea. They were rejoicing in their heart. I see the Lord there as he spoke to Moses, "And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Stretch out thine hand over the sea.'" (Exodus 14:26) There was ol' Pharaoh's army coming through and Pharaoh knew that God was against him. The waters rolled together again and there was the great army of Pharaoh, drowned in the Red Sea. I can hear each and every one of those children of Israel as he is saying deep down in his heart on the other side of the sea, "God delivered me."

Let us look at a few more Bible characters that God delivered. We read in Daniel the third chapter about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Ol' Nebuchadnezzar, the king, made an image of gold, whose height was three score cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: He set it up in the plain of Fura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar, the king, sent to

gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image. Then an herald cried aloud. "To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up, and whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace." (Daniel 3:1-6). I see three tall men of God standing back there in the rear of all that host that bowed down there that day, I see them standing as statues. No, Glory to God! Ol' Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wouldn't bow or bend. Thank God, for men today who have settled it once and for all, for time and for eternity to go with God regardless of what comes or goes, what might come upon them or how many persecutions. Thank God, we can stand four-square for the Lord Jesus Christ. No, they didn't bow. They brought them to the king.

Brother, his countenance changed. I'll tell you what they said, "Old king!, if the God that we serve is not able to deliver us we still won't bow down to you." Glory to God for men like that! We have many people today who are bowing down, and I'll tell you the devil wants Christian people to just bow down one time, compromise just one time, then the world can point their finger at them and say, "There they are, look at them!"

The king commanded the mighty men in the army to heat the furnace seven times hotter than it had ever been heated before. I see them as they heat the furnace seven times hotter. I see them as they take Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They put their clothes on, gave them an extra over-coat and put caps upon their

heads. I see them as they bind them hand and foot, wrap those bands tight around their wrists, cutting almost into the bone. I see them as they bind them and carry them up those huge steps, some twenty steps to the top of this great fiery furnace. When they opened the door to throw Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace, the flames were so hot it slew those mighty men of Nebuchadnezzar's army. I see Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as they fall down in that fiery furnace and those flames begin leaping around them. After a while it begins to burn those cords and those bands from around their arms and their bodies. I see them as they rise upon their feet. They begin to carry on a conversation in that furnace that had been heated seven times hotter than it had ever been heated before. I see Shadrach as he says to Abednego, "Glory to God! Aren't you glad they gave us our over-coats before they brought us in this cold place? These old flames today are throwing out cold air. Thank God, we have our caps on so we can pull them down over our ears to keep them warm. Thank God today!"

I see the king as he comes up and looks into that burning fiery furnace and says, "Didn't I just put three in there?" He said, "I see four and the fourth is like the Son of God." (Daniel 3:25) I'll tell you He will always walk through the fires with us. He will always be with us. When it seems like God is the farthest away, then He is the closest. I can see the King as he commanded the men to bring Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego forth out of the burning furnace. The scriptures tell us that there wasn't even a "hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them." (Daniel 3:27). I see them as they walk down there to the king. He gave them a promotion in the kingdom that day. I can hear Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego saying within their hearts these words, "God delivered me."

Friends, it pays in this old world to stand true to God, whenever the persecutions come. If we will keep looking up, if we will keep our eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ and not falter to the right nor to the left, thank God, He will always deliver us! He is never a minute early nor a minute late. He is always right on time and He will be with us across the plains of sorrow. He will be with us across the steep mountains. We will meet many obstacles in life, but, He will always deliver us if we will trust in Him.

We have seen how God delivered the children of Israel from the army of Pharaoh. We have seen how God wonderfully delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego through the fiery furnace. I'll tell you the army couldn't destroy them and the flames couldn't burn them!

Now let's take a visit to the lion's den and see how Daniel gets along.

There was a group of governors, princes, chancellors and captains that wanted to get rid of Daniel. They couldn't find any fault in him anywhere, so they got their heads together and said, "We will find fault in his God. We will have the king sign a decree that no man shall pray to his God within thirty days save to the King." They went to the king and drew up a decree that no man should pray aloud for thirty days to his God. When they went to the king he didn't want to sign it because "an excellent spirit was in him" but he signed the decree anyway. What did Daniel do? He kept on praying! If it had been some of us today what would we have done: What would we do if the order would come here in America that no one should pray to his God within thirty days and if they did they would be burned at the stake or they would be shot. What would you and I do today? Have we the kind of salvation down in our hearts

that will make us stand four-square and say that we are going to serve God, we are going to pray to our God if they burn us at the stake? For, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (2 Timothy 1:12).

I see that group of scribes, pharisees, governors, counsellors and princes as they hear Daniel praying that morning. They slip around the building. I see them as they look at one another and smile and say, "We have Daniel now, we will put him in the lion's den, because the king has already signed the decree." They went to the king and told him that Daniel didn't regard the decree that he had signed. "Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." A stone was brought and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him. Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, "Oh Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?" Then said Daniel unto the king, "O king, live for ever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have done no hurt." (Daniel 6:16-22).

The king commanded the men of his kingdom to bring Daniel forth out of the lion's den and those scribes, counsellors and governors, all their children and all their wives were cast into

the lion's den and the lions devoured their bones. We see Daniel as he walks out singing that song deep down in his heart, "God delivered me." God delivered me! Friends, don't we have a precious Savior? What a precious friend is Jesus in this old world of sin and loss to redeem us from destruction he gave Himself upon the cross for this purpose. In our trials and temptations he sustains us by His grace. We can cast our cares upon Him as we run life's tedious race. When we have entered the lone valley passing from this world away, we can rest upon His promises to be with us all the way.

"The dark valley of death's shadows will be  
stripped of all its gloom

He will lead us to His homeland where eternal  
flowers bloom.

When we have crossed the golden river, rest  
upon the other shore we will meet and greet  
our loved ones and shall never part, no never more.

What a blessed, blessed meeting that eternal morn  
will be, with our Christ, our blest Redeemer,  
throughout all eternity."

I'm looking forward to that day when I step off this old stage of action and soar beyond worlds unknown, thank God. "This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise to see the everlasting prize." Thanks be unto God we are serving a true and living God today.

Let us look at the life of Job, how God marvelously delivered him through some of the worst tests that man ever went through.

I bring these Bible characters before you to show how God has delivered in past days. If you will notice the text of my mes-

sage, "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver; in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." (2 Cor. 1:10). There is a text past, present and future, so I am bringing some of the past scenes of how God in olden days delivered His people. The scriptures tell us that, "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yolk of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east." (Job 1:1-5).

The scriptures also tell us that, "There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan "Whence comest thou?" Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." And the Lord said unto Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, "Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou has blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land, But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." And the LORD said unto Satan, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." (Job 1:6-13).

I see old split-hoof as he leaves the presence of the Lord and comes back down here on this old earth as he goes to Job.

The devil began to destroy all that Job had. "The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them, And the Sabeans fell upon them and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." (Job 1:14-15). That one servant had escaped to come tell Job that the Sabeans fell upon the asses and took them all away. Then while he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them: and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house; And behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they were dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. (Job 1:16-19). The servants told him that the Chaldeans had carried all the three thousand camels away and while he was speaking another servant came and said, "A great east wind came and struck the four corners of the house and the house fell upon your sons and daughters and they have all been killed and I only am escaped out here to tell you about it, to bring you the sad news." Oh, you can imagine how Job felt then! How did he feel? He didn't look down his nose, he didn't start weeping, what did he do? He lifted up his eyes towards heaven, rose up and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, worshipped, and said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." (Job 1:20-22). Thank

God for old Job. Brother, he had lost everything he had, all his cattle and his sons and daughters. If anything would make us turn our back on God and think that God was fighting against us is when we lose everything we have, but not so with Job, he still looked up because he knew in whom he believed.

Thank God he knew that God gave and God took away. He still trusted in God. God give us more Jobs today; "Again there was a day" the scriptures tell us "When the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord." (Job 2:1). You know it is the some way today, we can get together in an old-fashioned brush-arbor meeting, anywhere in an old-fashioned service with a great congregation, but old split hoof has to bring himself right along, too. He is right in all of our meetings everywhere we go, but thank God there is coming a meeting in the sky in which he will be missing! The Lord said unto Satan, "From whence comest thou?" And Satan answered the Lord, and said, "From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." And the Lord said unto Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? And still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him, to destroy him without a cause." And Satan answered the Lord, and said, "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face." And the Lord said unto Satan, "Behold, he is in thine hand: but save his life." (Job 2:2-6).

The Lord turned Job back over to Satan. Satan went from the presence of the Lord, went down there and touched Job with sore boils from the top of his head to the sole of his feet. We see

a picture of Job as he is filled with boils as he goes back in the back yard and takes an old piece of a pot and begins to scrape himself and sits down among the ashes. It is a sad picture to look at—Job out there scratching himself, and all the corruption running out of those boils. There are many of you who are reading this book who have had boils. I have myself and you know it is one of the worst things that a man can have upon him. They are so sore and so painful. Job was in a sad condition as he sat out there in the ash pile, all of his friends had forsaken him, he looked on the right hand for help, but there was no man that would know him, refuge failed him, it seemed that no man cared for his soul, but he still held to GOD, he still retained his integrity. Even his own wife, I can see as she comes to the door and opens it and says to Job. "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die." But I hear Job as he lifts up his head and says, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. (Job 2:10) Thank God there is a salvation that will keep us in the midst of difficulty, keep us through all of our afflictions, and in all of our persecutions and we can still look up and praise the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Job stood true to God though the devil destroyed all of his cattle and killed all of his children, filled him with sore boils, and his own blessed wife, who was supposed to be his comfort, turned her back upon him.

I'll tell you today, friends, if there is anything that would make a man of God turn his back upon the Lord Jesus Christ and say, "Away with this thing you say is salvation," I don't want to have anything more to do with it. It is when his own blessed wife turns her back upon him and says, "Curse God and die. I'm not going any farther with you." I'll tell you if there is anything that would make us give up and throw up our hands

that would, but it did not faze Job. He still held fast to his integrity and his belief in God. We see him there as God restored him fourfold and gave him back more cattle than he had before. There's a picture of a world example. If we stand true to God He will always bring us back into His golden sunlight of His love. Thank God, there has never been a valley so dark that His love could not cheer us. There is always a way for those who keep their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely Job came out saying, "God delivered me."

There is one other great Bible character, one of the great warriors of the Lord Jesus Christ whom we would like to bring to your attention. That is the apostle Paul, the one who spoke these words, "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." (2 Cor. 1:10). It would be almost impossible and the book could not contain it all to give all of the trials and all the persecutions that apostle Paul went through. Thank God for that glad morning on the road to Damascus when he met the Lord Jesus Christ and he went on down to Strait Street and met Ananias. Thank God he was baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire! Yes, his trials started then but also his joys.

Many times he went into the city and the chief men in the city raised persecution against Paul and expelled him from their midst. He didn't hang his head, but he lifted up his eyes toward New Jerusalem. Thank God! He was stoned and left outside of the city for days. He wasn't discouraged. No siree! The multitude rose up against him and they tore off Paul's clothes and beat him until the blood ran down his back, but he still kept looking up. We see just a little of Paul's life. He said he was whipped five times by the Jews, forty stripes save one.

“Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that: he should live.” (Acts 22:22). Get him out of this city for it is not fit for him to live here. I can hear Paul as he said, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” (2 Cor. 4:8-10).

I see Paul and Silas down there in Philippi, down there on the banks of the river having an old-fashioned prayer meeting. I see this little maid that has been following Paul and Silas throughout the city, “A certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her master much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and Silas and cried saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.” (Acts 16:16-18). Thank God, she found the Lord Jesus Christ and was converted. Those scribes and pharisees and sadducees had been getting much gain from this little maid. It seemed that all their hope and gain was gone. They took Paul and Silas into the market place, stripped off their clothes and commanded that they would be beaten. Oh, they were beaten hard until the blood trickled down even to their feet. They commanded the keeper in the Philippian jail to take Paul and Silas and bind them in the inner stocks. They took Paul and Silas away back in the inner part of the prison and fastened them. I can see them as they fasten Paul’s and Silas’s hands and feet through those wooden stocks, and grind that great wedge down upon them. It is dark back in there. Paul and Silas had joy unspeakable and full of glory way down deep in their hearts. Brother and Sister, they were singing songs of the redeemed:

"Hallelujah, what a Savior who can take a poor lost sinner,  
Lift him from the miry clay and set him free.  
I will ever tell the story, shouting glory, glory, glory,  
Hallalujah, Jesus ransomed me!"

Praise God, they were having a prayer meeting there at 12 o'clock. When Paul and Silas both were thrown in jail, they did not worry who would go their bail, but the prayer bells began to ring, off fell the stocks and they began to sing. "Prayer bells of heaven oh, how sweetly they ring, bearing the message unto Jesus our king." Jesus delivered and the scribes and pharisees then saw prayer bells of heaven beat a man-made law.

Yes, they were singing,

"Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see."

Yes, I imagine they were singing that old song:

"There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains."

What a time they were having! They were having a prayer meeting at 12 o'clock. I wonder what you and I would be doing if we were in stocks with our feet and hands fastened tight. Would we be lifting our voices in praises and thanksgiving unto

God for all the persecutions being put upon us. God help us as Christians to look up as old Paul and Silas did that night in the Philippian jail! Brother, the scriptures say that God heard them at mid-night and he shook that old jail. It doesn't say anything about any of the rest of the buildings being shaken around there that night, but every man's bands were loosed off their hands, every prison door was opened. Oh, thank God, all the prisoners walked out! I see that old Philippian jailer as he came forth with a light in his hand and sprang out seeing that all the prisoners were loose. He knew he would be killed and he cried with a loud voice and said, "What must I do to be saved?" I hear old Apostle Paul as he said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Brother, he believed that night and was saved in his house. He took Paul and Silas home with him, washed their stripes and gave them a good meal. Ah, brother, the great men of the city said get those men out of the city, but they said we will not go. You have beat us and condemned us openly and we didn't do anything worthy of it and we won't leave your city. I see them as Paul sent back word and told them he wouldn't go until after they had an old-fashioned prayer meeting. After awhile I see them as they go out of that city and shake the dust off their feet and saying deep down in their heart, "God delivered me." Yes, God did deliver them.

God did deliver Paul. He suffered ship wreck, "a night and a day I have been in the deep, (he said) in journeyings often, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:25-28). But he could still lift up his voice and say through them all, "Thank God, God delivered me, persecutions, afflictions, which came un-

to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me." (2 Timothy 3:11).

I would like to bring you some of my own experiences of how God delivered me from a life of sin. We know that it is no great thing to look back upon our past life, how mean we were, how filthy and low down we were, how black our heart was. We say these words with an humble heart and an humble spirit when we refer to that old sinful life back there four or five years. We remember how we used to run from coast to coast all times of the day and night. I'll tell you friends, I was looking for something to satisfy my hungry heart. I was looking for something to fill up that empty gap there in my heart. I'll tell you I couldn't find it in fine clothes, couldn't find it in automobiles, houses or lands. I'll tell you, it was nothing but the Love of Jesus Christ that could satisfy my heart. Oh, I was miserable, I was so miserable as I traveled from place to place. I knew that I was looking for something but I didn't know what. I remember on the 23rd of September, 1939, as I went out to an old-fashioned prayer meeting, one of my friends there in my home town came by in an old A-model Ford and he had about ten or fifteen I believe in that Ford. I don't see how he could have got another one in it, but somehow or other he knew that I needed God and I piled myself in. We went out to this old-fashioned prayer meeting and I listened to those people testify to something that I had never heard of before, how God wonderfully saved them from a life of sin, how God lifted them up and the joy they were having serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Brother, my heart was heavy and the Holy Ghost began to deal with me more and more. After a while I found great tears streaming down my cheeks. Glory to God! As I knelt down at that old chair that night and lifted my voice to God I began to tell God how mean I was. I told God that my heart was as black as the soot walls of hell, that I was unworthy

and all that I could think about. I just lifted my hands and my voice to God that night and prayed right out. After a while there was a great glow that came upon my face. I felt the burden of black sin roll from my heart and the sweet love of Jesus came in. I arose to my feet and said, Glory to God! Jesus has saved me from a life of sin. I was different than in the old sinful life. It changes a man. Jesus Christ can fix us up until the world won't even know us anymore.

My brother older than I had already gone to bed when I got home but I went into the room and testified to him of how God had saved me that night. He had already been under conviction and he began to roll in his bed night after night. Soon he was converted. Oh, thank God for that happy hour of September 23rd when the Lord saved me.

Many of my old friends that I had been running around with, playing the game said, "What has happened to Drye?" The world cannot understand it and the world never will understand it. Thank God.

In about a year after God saved me about 2 o'clock in the morning, out in the woods with two or three of my friends, good Christian brothers in Christ, we were praying for an old-fashioned revival. I had been hungry and knew that God had something better for me. I knew that God could satisfy my heart still better and was hungering for second-blessing holiness. I began to lift my voice to God and meant business with God. I settled it once and for all, time and eternity and I asked God to sanctify me there that night. About that time the fire of the Holy Ghost struck my heart. No one there to see me shout, no one there to

see me ride those saplings over those woods that night but oh God blessed me in a marvelous way and I shouted all over those woods, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Then my friends said I had gone crazy, but I had just found my right mind when God took out the carnal mind and gave me the mind of Christ. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7). I walked in the light God gave me. After God sanctified me I would go up on the street corners in my home city and the surrounding cities and testify to what God had done for me. I'll tell you those old friends I used to run around with would stand by and listen. They would say, "Drye has gone crazy, he has lost his mind; he has gone crazy over religion and he won't last very long." But I'm glad to say today, glory be to God, that it is still lasting. I am still going on farther up the road and enjoying old-time salvation today, better than I did in 1939 and 1940. Glory be to Jesus.

God gave me a nice tent, piano, all the benches and everything that goes with it. I started out in 1942, preaching over the country the Gospel of the Son of God. I remember in one great campaign down in Monroe, North Carolina. I put the tent up just outside of a camp where there were many soldiers who came by. I preached to those soldiers night after night. Many of them who were leaving, going across the sea, bowed at an old-fashioned altar and prayed through in the old-fashioned way, weeping with bitter tears of repentance at that old-fashioned altar night after night. While there in that campaign in Monroe, North Carolina, I received a little card from Uncle Sam saying, "We want you in our army." I was content and wasn't shocked but was willing to go. I said, "Not my will, Lord, but thine be done." Friends,

God's will is always better than our will. God's will is best. His will is always right and good. I would not have my way at all even if I could.

God's will is better than our will  
It's always right and good.  
I would not have my way at all  
Not even if I could.

God holds the future in His hands  
And scans the unspent years,  
He knows the trying hours ahead  
The pain and bitter tears.

Oh! just to leave it all with Him  
And lean upon His breast  
To know whatever comes or goes  
That His dear will is best.

Oh! just to let Him have His way  
With heart and life and soul  
Brings peace so sweet, and joy divine  
And leads us safely Home.

We cannot understand, sometimes,  
Why things do happen so,  
Nor why the way is often rough  
That we are called to go.

But in the meadow's sunlight  
Or through the mountain's cleft  
Hold Him gently by the hand  
And know His will is best.

"Yes," I said, "God, Thy will be done, I can be instrumental in helping those precious boys in the army. I am willing to go Lord, I am willing to go wherever Thou dost want me to go." I was deferred for about thirty days and was able to finish my revival there and moved on down to Rockingham, North Carolina, where I set up my tent, but it was getting about time to go into the army.

I remember leaving home to be examined for the army, going down to South Carolina, Camp Croft where eighty-three men were examined also. I passed the test to go into the army and went back home for fourteen days. On the 28th day of August, 1942, I went up town about 7 o'clock in the morning and there were all those eighty-three boys who had been examined with me some fourteen days before. There was a great crowd of people to see us off. There were men's wives and little children there to kiss them good-bye, perhaps for the last time.

They called me and put me in charge of all the eighty-three men. I was to see that they all got to the camp all right on the two bus loads. We left there that morning and right before that old bus pulled out I kissed that old mother of mine as she stood there and said good-bye to my brother and some of my Christian friends. Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." I quoted quite a few promises over and over in my heart as I got on the old bus.

Sometimes our friends can go just so far with us. They can go to the trains, the ships, the buses and kiss up good-byes but there is one who can go all the way with us, One who will never leave us, nor forsake us and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. When

I stepped on that bus that morning, that was as far as my friends could go but thank God, Jesus got on that old bus with me.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee: yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:10) “The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.” (Psalms 34:7).

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5) “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20) “Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.” (Isaiah 49:15). “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eyes.” (Psalms 32:8)

The old bus pulled out, I waved good-bye, we were on our way to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. We reached there sometime that afternoon, and unloaded. This was something different to all of the boys that had never been in the army before. We stayed there about three days until they shot us full of holes with needles, gave us our clothes, shoes and everything. In the army your clothes are either too small or too large and they either fit or don't fit. You wear them anyway.

We left Ft. Bragg after three days, not knowing where we were going. We went down to Ft. McClellan, Alabama, where we had our basic training. The very first Sunday I was there I

went around to all the barracks and told the boys we were going to have an old-fashioned service down in the woods where they had a large stand and plenty of benches, where they had been giving lectures during the day. The devil tried to defeat and discourage but I did it anyway. The stand was a fine place to have a good religious service. I told all of the boys, let's go down and have an old-fashioned service.

Some of them were drinking, some were gambling, and some were asleep. Lots of them were unconcerned and were not interested. Lots of them paid no attention and told us to go ahead and have our service. The boys gathered together in the woods that Sunday afternoon and God came on the scene. I will never forget the text from which I preached. "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." (Prov. 29:1).

God gave us a good service because of our obedience to Him. We went on and had our basic training there for six weeks. Many a time going through the old forest I would start singing that old song:

"I shall not be moved  
Though all hell assail me  
I shall not be moved  
Jesus will not fail me  
I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters  
I shall not be moved  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved  
I shall not be, I shall not be moved  
Just like a tree that's planted by the waters  
I shall not be moved."

After a while the whole company was singing it too, marching through those swamps at night, early in the morning or going out to the rifle machine range. Thank God! God came upon my soul and blessed me in a wonderful way. While in basic training I qualified in nothing but the machine gun. All the boys said to me, "Drye, you are really gone now. They will put you in a machine gun outfit, one of the most dangerous outfits there is, and you will go across the water and you will be in combat."

I said, "I am serving a God who is able to deliver me, a God who is able to take me through this great conflict whether in a machine gun or cannon company, rifle company or wherever I am. I am serving the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Thank God!"

After six weeks of training it came time for me to move out. They put us on the train with all of our duffle bags, rifles and all of our equipment. We were so weighted down we could hardly carry them. That is the way the army works, you know. We left there and went to Ft. Benning, Georgia, where they put me in the paratroopers, but I stayed there for only about a week. God was really good to me.

Once again they loaded us on a train and the first thing I knew I was in Camp Butner, North Carolina, just 120 miles from home. God let me come back. There they did put me in a machine gun outfit, in a machine gun company, a heavy weapons company and I carried on my training there for some eighteen months. During those eighteen months I made friends with all the boys in the surrounding companies and the regiment there. I was known as "Father Drye" in the army as all the boys called me that but passed it up and answered them, giving them the attention they desired. God really did bless me while there in

Camp Butner. It was where I could go home on the week end. Every two or three weeks I would get a pass and go home to be with good Christian friends and get into a good, old-fashioned, Holy Ghost service.

God blessed me in a wonderful way, thank God! I remember how I used to go out with the boys on night problems. We would gather about after the problems were over there at night and getting them together, I would preach Jesus Christ. They would gather around the fire-light and listen to me preach, expounding the word of the Lord Jesus Christ and God blessed in a marvelous way.

Oh the South Carolina maneuvers, through many dangers, toils, snares through weariness, being hungry, wet and all that came upon me, I still glorified the Lord Jesus Christ. We moved out of Camp Butner to go on Tennessee maneuvers in January and February, and you know it was cold up there in those mountains in Tennessee. We stayed there eight weeks and I believe I can truthfully say from my heart that it rained seven out of the eight weeks. It was cold, too, and oh, how we think of how God wonderfully delivered me there.

One night when they wanted to put me in a truck they said, "No Father Drye, you get in the one behind this other truck," I got into that truck. We rolled on down the road and the truck which I started to get in turned over down that mountain and killed five of those precious soldiers. How I lifted my heart, and said, "Oh, God, I know it was thy spirit that put it upon some of those hearts to put me into that truck behind!" Truly I can say then, "God delivered me." I'll tell you, it was different over there even on Tennessee maneuvers.

We were wet after those two and three day problems. I had a First Sergeant who liked me and thought lots of me. He said, "Father Drye, we have to have a service tonight." On Thursday, Friday and Saturday night I gathered the boys about a great fire-light in those mountains and preached the love of Jesus Christ and God would bless us in a great way. Hallelujah! God came down in a marvelous way even though it was pouring down rain. Lots of the time we kept looking up and trusting that God would deliver us.

After those miserable Tennessee maneuvers were over, they loaded us on a train and moved us to Camp Pickett, Virginia, where we stayed some two or three months. God was still on my soul. We were not discouraged nor downhearted. I knew that I was serving a God that was able to lead us down through the dark valleys and over the steep mountains and across the plains of sorrow and bring us back into His golden sunlight of His love. No matter what came or went we never looked down, but we carried a smile upon our face and looked to the Lord Jesus Christ, looking forward to blessed days which would be ahead of us after awhile.

We moved from Camp Pickett, Virginia, into the staging area. We moved from there up to New York and loaded on the old boat which was to sail in just a few days. I'll tell you, it was a different time. The boys had a different look upon their faces after they loaded on the boat that day. I began to quote some of God's precious promises over and over in my heart on that old boat as she pulled out of the harbor in New York.

Psalms 37:25 says, "I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man bringeth a snare:

but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." (Psalms 56:11). "The Lord is on my side: I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" (Psalms 118:6). "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength." (Isaiah 26:3-4).

I didn't have my trust in man as I was sailing that ocean, but was trusting in God. I was sea sick ten days as the boat reeled and rocked across the ocean. I remember some of those dark nights when the ship was blacked out, walking on that old deck and telling God that someday I believed I would walk on another deck. After being through the land of destruction I saw my faith fulfilled on another ship coming home. Thank God!

In a few days we landed in South Hampton, England, staying there for some two or three weeks before we moved across the channel. While there in England I had many experiences in the churches. We would find some good spiritual churches there, Some of them had had the Holy Ghost and fire in them. Though it was a little hard to get used to those high pulpits, way up high and looking down upon the congregation, God blessed us as we preached the gospel and testified to the Love of Jesus Christ and sang the songs of Zion. Many good friends were made while stationed in England. If it is God's will, some day I expect to go back and preach the gospel to those people.

After awhile we were given our orders that we would move across the channel, the roughest body of water there is and it was very rough that day. We were sailing just a short time when such a storm came up that we had to hold anchor for three days and nights. On the third night another ship ran into us and

knocked all of our lifeboats off and our equipment went rolling over the floor. I was so sea sick I didn't know whether the boat was floating on top or under the water. The truth was that half of the time it was both above and under the water, but it didn't make much difference to me as I was so sea sick. Thank God! I knew one thing that if the old boat did go down my soul would go up because I had anchored in JEHOVAH, Bless God! I was determined not to be moved. After awhile there was a rescue ship which came to us and pulled us through all right and we made it through to the harbor without any trouble. When we landed in the harbor it was pouring down rain. They moved us out in trucks. France is a rainy country. You people who read this little book and the G. I.'s who read this book will agree with me one hundred per cent. They moved us out and we pitched tents some forty or fifty miles from the harbor in an old wheat field. The mud was so deep in the wheat field that it got up over our shoe tops. This was the worst I have ever seen in my life. We were there for Thanksgiving dinner and they gave us turkey that day. You should have seen the sight of those boys walking around in mud up to their shoe tops with a big drum stick of a turkey in one hand and a piece of light bread in the other saying. "What a Thanksgiving!" Yes, I was giving thanks unto God that I was there even in the mud eating turkey. Thanks be unto God! We stayed there about five days. Then they moved us down and loaded us in those forty and eights which you G. I.'s who read this little book will know more what I'm talking about than some of the civilians as they read it.

They piled forty of us in one of those little box cars with all of our equipment, rifles and everything we had until one could hardly move his feet. It was worse than stacking cattle in a box car. Cattle would have more room than we had. We moved along the railroad day after day and night after night. The boys said, "We have to have a service, Father Drye." I remember turning

to and reading the 22nd chapter of Revelation and the 17th verse. It reads like this: "And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." While that old train rolled down the rail at fifty miles an hour they listened intently. My Lieutenant sat right in front of me. I preached the love of Jesus Christ that a man could have abiding in His heart even though he was rolling toward the land of death and destruction and pointed them to the Lord Jesus Christ that was able to give them that peace that passeth all understanding. I invited them that night to take Him as their Savior, that He was the water of life if they would only come to Him. When the old train stopped for a while some boys in the other car heard me over there preaching. They said, "Come over and give us a service in this car." I'll tell you friends, I had many opportunities to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to those precious boys, even before reaching the front lines.

After three days and nights we unloaded and it surely was a great relief to get out of that old box car after being cramped in there. Some of the boys could hardly walk as their joints had gotten stiff, but some how we got together and threw our barrack bags across our shoulders and marched up a little lonely road out into some of the Belgian apple orchards and pitched our tents. It was very cold and it was here that we heard our first bomb. The boys had warned us before that when we heard one of those things cut off we better start clawing in the dirt. The next morning we heard one of those buzz bombs coming over and we were all watching it. After a while it cut off. You should have seen those men as we all scattered East, West, North, and South because death was riding the sky. Those boys knew what would happen if that buzz bomb hit there in the midst of us; thank God it so happened that it went on across us just some four or

five blocks away before it hit. We stayed there in Belgium for about a week, then orders came to move on.

We were loaded in trucks and were moved on to the front lines just within two miles of the Germans. It was snowing very fast and the snow was about two feet deep on the ground. We moved up there, unloaded out of those trucks and had orders to go ahead and dig fox holes. Our own artillery was behind us at that time. We knew that we were right on the front lines as the Germans were firing over our heads. We dug a hole there through that snow and into the hard ground that night, and oh, we had no sleep!

I remember a little song book that I had with me, carrying it with me since leaving home. There is where I had to depart with that little song book as I buried it in the snow that night. We stayed there that night and the next day. The next night we had orders that at 0600 we would move out and meet the Germans.

I never shall forget that night, December 12. It seemed that God was so far away, it seemed that God completely left me and departed from me.

“It seemed that God was far away  
His presence was not real:  
I could not hear His tender voice;  
His hand I could not feel.  
The night was cold, and dark,  
And drear and I was so alone,  
And fearful, too, of what might be  
In tomorrow’s vast unknown.

I could not trace the path ahead  
I stumbled in the bog  
When came the bright'ning  
Thought to me,  
God is not gone, 'tis fog.  
God is not gone, 'tis fog that  
Hides the Saviour's blessed face,  
That mists the way, and dims the FAITH,  
And makes us doubt His GRACE.  
God is not gone, He'll never  
Leave the weakest one alone,  
But will lead us through the  
Mists of doubt till safely we reach home."

(May 1st, 1947)

Then came that voice to me that spoke to my soul:

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

I picked up new courage, hope and new life when Jesus spoke to my soul about five o'clock in the morning when those words rang over my heart as we were marching down that snowy road. I had charge of thirty-five men and four machine guns. I'll tell you I felt the great responsibility upon me that morning, knowing that in just a short time we would meet those Germans.

We passed through Lammersdorf, Germany, carrying all the equipment we could carry and I was supporting this rifle company which was ahead of me with my machine guns. As we marched on out of Lammersdorf, Germany, down there in the hollow, it seemed like the Germans knew right where we were and they began to shell us heavily. I was on the top of the hill

at that time. The riflemen down there began to scream and holler. I shall never forget those pitiful screams,—the first screams of combat that I had ever heard. I thought it was a group of civilian people who had been shelled by those artilleries. God gave me courage and helped me in a marvelous way to march on. I couldn't stop but we had to go on down where those men had been shelled some five hundred feet ahead of us and by the time we got there the Germans began to lay another artillery barrage on us. All of my men got scattered that morning. It was dark, just beginning to break daylight. All the men scattered and I hollered at them and told them to be still just a moment and I would tell them what to do. I got all the men together as we moved up the crest of a hill in the woods, there the artillery shells were coming across and God wonderfully helped us in a marvelous way without the loss of a man: without even a scratch.

After we had moved to the crest of this hill I had the boys dig their fox holes. We stayed until about four o'clock that afternoon, then we had orders that we would move out and take Kesternicht, Germany. I was with the 78th Lightning Division 309th Regiment, 2nd Battalion H Company. As we moved across the field there was a rifle company just in front of us some two-hundred yards. The boys were scattered across the field. They began to hit a mine field and some of the boys, I can see the picture of them yet today, with their rifles over their heads, falling backwards and some on the ground with fire and mud flying. Oh, mud and dirt in the air, it was an awful picture! That time I told the men to shift down on the road and go through. We shifted down out of that mine field and got on the road without the loss of a man and surely I lifted my voice and said, "Yes, God delivered me again."

We marched on up the road. I was with my Lieutenant and walking up to him said, "Lieutenant, I'm praying for you." He looked around and tears were in his eyes. I don't know why he had tears in his eyes. I never did get to ask him because we went on through open fields and the German shells were heavy. About every fifty yards we would have to hit the ground and get up and keep going. My motto was "Keep marching forward and don't stay behind." That has always been my motto since I have been a Christian. "Keep marching forward!"

I led those men straight forward. Then we ran into this German trap where my Lieutenant was killed by a mortar shell. I said, "O God, do I have to take charge of these men?" Then the voice of God spoke to my heart, "I was with Moses." Moses led the children of Israel out, they came to Jordan and Joshua had to take over. He was with Joshua and He said, "I will be with you." I said, "Lord, by thy help and grace we can make it through this great conflict if Thou will lead in front of us." We reached the edge of Kesternicht, Germany, which was heavily fortified, because their plans of the great bulge which broke through the 17th of December, we were driven back from that town. We were unable to take it. I lost many men there but we dug in just outside of the town and stayed there the rest of that night and the next day until the next night at 12 o'clock when we had orders to pull back so our artillery could shell the town.

We moved back some three hundred yards and dug in; it was about three o'clock in the morning. I did not know where all of our men were. When it got daylight I looked out to the left from me and could see two Germans planting a mine but wasn't definite whether they were Germans or not so there was no fire upon them. We stayed there during the "Battle of the Bulge." The Germans tried to penetrate through us eleven days and

nights. We could hear the German Tiger tanks as they were growling down behind the hill every morning at dawn, but Thank God, somehow or other God kept those tanks from coming right across the large hill which we were on with those four machine guns.

We stayed there in that fox hole eleven days and nights, the worst I have ever spent in my life. I would go out of that hole every day some three-quarters of a mile down across the open field and take one or two of my boys with me to bring water and K-rations for the boys. My buddy, who trained with me for two years here in the states, was killed by a German artillery shell. I can still see him, the silhouette of his body on that moon-light night, lying out on the battle field: not only him but many more of my comrades were lying around me. Their bodies were not moved for about a week. We would get out of our fox hole to go down across the field after our rations and it looked like that German sniper would crack down at me. I would go running and sometimes would fall down on the ground, but somehow or other God's hand was upon me. God took care of me and saw me through it all. Many a time I remember coming up the hill with a case of K-rations on my shoulder. I would hit the fox hole head first. I didn't stop to see where I was going to jump like many boys did who made the mistake and thus caused their death, but came head first and ran in like a rabbit.

I said, "Get out of the way, boys, here I come, K-rations and all, head first." God wonderfully helped me. I did my part out there on the battle field when it came to taking care of myself—digging a hole—I dug. I dug fast and with my fingers sometimes and expected God to do what I could not. I remember the 19th day of December during the "Battle of the Bulge," there was a little city on fire some four or five miles away and looking right

out in front of me about four hundred yards, I could see the Germans as they were closing in, one right behind the other and I told the messengers who were in the hole with me, "Just look at them, I know there are one-hundred or two-hundred Germans already passed that fire-light." We could see the silhouette of them as they would creep by. I knew we were completely surrounded by the Germans that night. We could hear the German machine guns firing in back of us. We knew that we were completely surrounded during the "Battle of the Bulge".

I'll tell you friends, I bowed down in that old fox hole that night and didn't look to any but to God. I had God upon my soul! I bowed down and told God that it was not guns, tanks nor planes that we needed now, but prayed, "O God, we pray that Thou wilt drive the enemy back, because Lord, you tell us in Psalms 56:9 "Cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know: for God is for me." Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them, that put their trust in him."

God knows that I wasn't trusting in guns and tanks, but had my trust in Him. Psalms 7:10 says, "My defense is of God, which saveth the upright in heart." "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though wars should rise against me, in this will I be confident." (Psalms 27:3). Jer. 33:3 says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Then we read over in Psalms the 50th chapter and the 15th verse, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." God knows that I needed help that night.

He said over in Joshua the 1st chapter and the 5th verse, "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the

days of thy life: as I was with Moses, So I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Thank God He has never failed me thus far and He would not fail me now, somehow or other I had faith unspeakable. I cannot find words to explain the kind of faith that I had. Having prayed a short prayer and believed God; there wasn't a doubt in my heart that God would not answer it. I believe He would, and prayed for the Lord to drive those Germans back that night. Thank God the next morning the old sun came up on the Western Battle-field there in Germany and there wasn't a German to be seen anywhere on the right or on the left or in the front or behind. You say, what happened to them? I don't know, God probably put it upon some of their leaders to call them back. Anyway we know that we were surrounded that night and the next morning there wasn't a German to be seen anywhere and I could say "Surely God delivered me again."

After eleven days the "Battle of the Bulge" was practically over. We had orders to move out and move around in the Hurtgen forest where there were many pill boxes to be taken, some with as high as twenty-one Germans in them. When we speak of pill boxes, we speak of a very large cement room with walls about ten feet thick in some of them. We had orders that we were to take some of those pill boxes in the Hurtgen forest. While there I met my brother right on the front lines, a brother who stood here in the states and told me when I entered the United States army that I would never be able to live a Christian life in the army. He told me it was impossible. He had gone in as a Christian but he backslid, I'm sorry to say. Well, praise God, I lived it for a year, then two years and later on in the Hurtgen forest, right upon the front lines there in Germany I met my brother. He was with the 104th division. I met him face to face on the battle-field and told him that the grace of God was still sufficient. I

was still standing true and waving high the blood-stained banner of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a great blessing to my heart even to meet my own brother over there on the battlefield midst all the death and destruction. It helped me a great deal to see him.

I didn't have a Lieutenant at this time. I had orders to go down on a reconnaissance. The company commander and I went down on Saturday afternoon to look over a pill box which we were to take. We went down on the side of the hill where some riflemen had dug in. We were going to take those riflemen's fox holes and convert them into machine gun positions. We looked around to see the German pill boxes over on the other hill across from us. He pointed with his finger and said, "Drye, do you see the smoke coming out of the top of it over there?" I said, "Sure, it is only 700 yards, it looks to me, away from us." "Yes, not much farther than that," he replied. After a while we left and went back. I took my men out of the fox holes there in the Hurtgen forest on Sunday morning, January 21. The snow was some two and a half feet deep. It had been snowing for four or five weeks. I trudged up the old Hurtgen forest. I'll tell you God spoke to my heart that morning and He said these words,

"Ere you left your room this morning,  
Did you think to pray?  
In the name of Christ, our Saviour,  
Did you sue for loving favor,  
As a shield today?"

"Oh," I said, "My God, my God, my God; I have failed to pray today." I had failed to pray that day and I'll tell you I marched on up there to where I was going to put those machine guns in order to take that pill box. I had fifteen men with me at

this time, they all had ammunition. We did not have our machine guns, we left them behind, we were going to move them in at night. We went on down the side of the hill, leaving some of the eighteen year-old boys, who had never been in combat on top of the hill in a pill box which we had taken several days previously. It was a pitiful sight. We left them there: went on down the hill with several of my leaders: my squad leader and my section leader. As we went down, I was showing them what I wanted done and where I wanted the guns and other equipment. Actually any man could pick me out as a leader. About that time one of those German snipers shot me through the right thigh of the leg. It knocked me down but I managed to jump into a fox hole with one of the riflemen. At the same time he shot my squad leader through the stomach, then he shot my section leader through the knee cap. I disregarded the safety of my own life and crawled out of that hole to help my squad leader who was shot and got him in the fox hole. I talked to him and tried to keep him from going into shock, trying to comfort him in every way I could. I sat there and read that old Psalm, the 27th Psalm. I shall quote to you the 13th verse: "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

As I read the New Testament there singing that old song, "Where he leads me I will follow." I'll go with Him all the way, over the mountains, through the dark valleys, I'll go with Him all the way! I had joy even right there in the midst of all that difficulty. When I was wounded and my boots filled with blood I had the love of God deep down in my heart. Though it was very cold, we stayed in that fox hole about an hour. I'll tell you the presence of God was with us and we were confident that God was going to lead us back into His glorious sunlight of His love after awhile.

“Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel  
And afterward deliver me to glory.”

Job 23:10 says, “But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 13:15 says, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.”

Psalms 34:19 says, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.” Thank God, we can still look up and say, “Thy will be done, Father.”

I was then moved off the front lines. They carried me back to the hospital to Aachen, Germany, 108th hospital; also my buddies who were wounded about the time that I was, went with me. I only stayed there in the 108th hospital for one week until I was able to go on into the convalescent hospital where there were three or four hundred soldiers ready to go back to the front lines. They were having services each night in that convalescent hospital. A chaplain from South Carolina was preaching to the boys. Naturally my being a Christian, I went down to listen to him preach and talked with him after the service, telling him that I had been in the work while here in the states, preaching. He asked me to take the services the next night. I did so and God blessed in a great way. The preacher who had asked me to preach for that one night said after I had preached that he would turn the service completely over to me. Well, thank God, I went on for two weeks preaching to those boys. You know sometimes we have to be wounded, for God to be able to get us where He wants us. “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purposes.” (Romans 8:28). I can see now that it worked out for

the best to be wounded there. I had services and God blessed in a marvelous way. Then came the time for me to go back to the front lines. I preached to the boys there in the concentration camp on the front lines two days after getting back. We had orders to take the city of Hennem which many of you have read about in the newspapers. We had to go down across the field about seven hundred yards before we reached the town. The Germans were shelling down upon us and we would see our comrades as they would fall right by the side of us. Then we began to think about the scripture: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." (Psalms 91:7). We reached the first house after awhile. The German snipers were still shooting at us. There were men falling on the right and left, but we couldn't let that stop us for we had to keep going forward. We had orders to take the town at any cost, if we were to be good soldiers and carry out our job.

After the town was completely secured I set one of my machine guns up in the surrounding houses around the town for defense. We stayed there for two or three days. While we were there I shall never forget some of the times I had with one of the boys who was in my platoon. He was a Christian and could play the piano. We would go into those German homes, get together and sing those old songs of Zion. We would sing "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder I'll be there." "There is a Fountain filled with Blood drawn from Immanuel's veins."

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see."

Sometimes the Germans would shell us so fast and heavy that the shells would burst and hit the houses round about us. We would have to quit singing and our little service and go back to the basement, because it wasn't safe staying up there.

We moved into a little town up the Sieg river by the name of Pratt, Germany. It had been my custom always on Easter Sunday morning to go to an Easter sunrise service but that Easter found me on the front lines and I was wondering, O, Lord, how am I going to get to an Easter sunrise service today? Praise God, I got my boys together there in a little house where I had one of my machine guns. We had a wonderful time, preaching on the resurrected Christ that morning and singing the songs of Zion. The boys heard about it in the other squad in the hotel. They asked me to come over and conduct a service and so sent word up to them that I would. There were two rifle companies that moved in at night through many paths and dark alleys. They didn't know how they came in so I was told to lead them out that night which I did. God wonderfully helped me and directed my footsteps, which He would always do. I led them out of there on up to Hamm, Germany, where we were planning to make the river crossing of the Sieg River which I shall never forget. This was on the 6th day of April.

On the 5th day of April I went out on the hillside in the woods, looked across the Sieg River and the Germans were on the other side some five hundred yards away. The next morning at 3 o'clock I had orders to take my machine guns out on the hillside but not to dig them in, just set those four machine guns up there. We moved out at 3 o'clock.

The night was lonely and we could hear the artillery shells in the far distance, bursting. We knew that the Germans were

just across the river in the hills, just about five hundred yards from us. We had orders not to dig the machine guns in. There we sat with four machine guns. After training men some eighteen months in the states in the machine gun platoon, I knew that when daylight came we could be completely demolished. I knew that we would be demolished by ten thousand artillery shells. It would have been death and destruction and blood there on that hilltop when daylight come. Oh, but God knew just what to do.

I told the boys to dig them a little hole to protect themselves. After I had dug a little hole about a foot and a half deep I bowed in it and with my face in the mud, called on God in such faith: I had perfect faith that morning and prayed a prayer like this, "O, Lord, Thou has delivered us in the past. Thou didst deliver us when we were surrounded by the Germans, and through many toils and snares, through French battles, Lord, you have brought us this far and we are not trusting in tanks and planes and guns, now. O, Lord, the same as you brought the fog down between Pharaoh and the children of Israel back there when they were camped at the Red Sea, I pray that you will send a fog upon this Seig River so that when daylight comes the Germans on the other side can't see us. We will be concealed from them."

Some two or three hours before daylight I prayed that prayer. I slipped over and told one of my section leaders that I had prayed God would send a fog so that the Germans could not see us when it was daylight. I believed God and could almost see the white heavens coming down with fog before it ever got daylight. After awhile crickets began to holler; everything was quiet and it began to crack dawn. I'll tell you my heart was lifted with joy to know that God was still on the throne with all the power that He has had down through the ages. Friends, it looked like the whole heavens had settled down in that old Seig River. You

could not tell whether there were mountains on the other side of the Seig River or whether it was deserts or plains. Oh, God settled the white fog down, because I believed Him. I prayed a prayer of faith and truly I can say God wonderfully and marvelously delivered me that morning going on down the hillside. I was so overthrilled within my soul of how God had answered prayer and how God had delivered me and began testifying as I went down to the river bank where we were to make the crossing. I testified to the Colonel of the Regiment and he said, "Where have you been, Drye?" I said, "I have been up on the hill top with those four machine guns sitting on that bald hill. You see all this white fog down here in the valley this morning? Well I prayed that God would send the fog and thank God, he has answered my prayer!" Though he was a Catholic he still loved me and thought lots of me. He turned his head in a slight way and walked away. I'll tell you our God is the God that answers by fire and by fog. Hallelujah!

We crossed the Seig river that morning. I sent my first boat across with fifteen of my men in it and two machine guns. It turned over and some of the boys could not swim. I stood there on the bank and prayed for those precious boys. One of them was only fifteen years old. You say what was he doing in combat—just fifteen years old? Anyway he was there, He crawled up on the bottom of the boat, drifted down the river to the other bank and made it out all right. They all got wet but we took them back to the house and got them some good, dry clothes. We stayed there till about three or four o'clock that afternoon. I sent the other section on with the rifle company which I was supporting. Later that afternoon we started across the territory which the Germans had observation on, to catch up with the company which had already taken two or three towns on ahead of us. We reached there right before daylight and were then across the Seig River, fighting in the great pocket that General Patton had made.

Then we crossed that river. I would like to call back one verse of scripture, Isaiah 43:2, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 3:3)

We went on through this large pocket that Patton had made, through many dangers, taking many cities and being shelled from the right and left. Oh, it was sad! Time won't permit me to tell it. God wonderfully took care of me. The boys were weary night after night, day after day, just existing, eating K-rations now and then and no sleep, but we had a job to do and we had to get it done. We were willing to do it so we could get back home.

After we finished this large pocket we moved up to a little town by the name of Dry Hausen, Germany. We had a large church in this little town. I was impressed to call the boys together and have a revival in this large church. The boys responded wonderfully and came out each night of the revival. I preached there for seven nights. When war ended on the 8th of May I was standing there in that church preaching and heard the glad news that the war was over. I praised God that the war was ended.

Shortly after the war was over they began to segregate the men and send them home. After a while my time came and I moved to the staging area in Marseilles, France. After staying there for about ten days it didn't look as if a boat would come in. One of the boys said, "There are five boats in today." The next day another boy would say, "There are three boats in today down at the dock." It looked as if our boat would never come in. One

day we heard the news that our boat was in—the one we were going home on, which was an Italian ship. They loaded on that boat some six thousand soldiers who had been through the land of death and destruction. We sailed out across the old Mediterranean sea and out across the Atlantic ocean. I remembered telling God as I was sailing the ocean coming across, that I would be true to Him. Now walking the deck night after night, I would testify how God wonderfully delivered me through this great conflict that had been staged upon this earth.

We ran into several storms coming back. The old boat would rock from one side to the other, but I still had my trust in Him and believed that I would soon dock in old America again.

I shall never forget the first day of December how my heart felt and how all the boys felt: six thousand on deck at one time, as we moved into the harbor of New York City. It was foggy and the wind was blowing hard on that cold December day. We could see the Statue of Liberty through a mist of fog; just barely could see it. There were boats running around this large ship, saying, "Welcome home! Welcome home!" Lots of the boys expressed their feelings in different ways. I'll tell you that old broom straw out there along the side and those old red hills at the harbor looked good to me. I was rejoicing because I was coming back home once more, knowing that God had delivered me; brought me through what He had. Everybody was looking for the Statue of Liberty. We barely could see it through the fog, but after a while we got a little closer to it and there she stood with the old torch waving high. After a while we docked at pier 88.

There were parents who had heard that their sons were on that ship coming home. There were sweethearts who had heard that their boy friends were on that ship and there were children

at the docks. There was a band playing when the old boat pulled in. Oh, it was a happy time for those people. What was the matter? They were there to meet their loved ones who had been through the land of death and almost hell.

They were rejoicing to see those precious loved ones. After awhile they put the gang plank down and we began to march off. Mothers were meeting sons, sweethearts were meeting sweethearts, children were meeting fathers. Oh, there was a great commotion! What a glad day it was for six thousand soldiers.

I gathered a great illustration that day coming in the harbor and docking in New York City. I began to think that we are on the old ship of Zion as Christians, sailing the rugged, rough sea. We have to suffer persecutions and kicks and knocks around in this old world, but we are on the old ship of Zion and someday she is going to pull up at Canaan's fair shore. We are going to see Jesus out there with outstretched arms. There are going to be mothers standing on Canaan's fair shore and children and sweethearts who have parted down here in this old world, but when she pulls into the harbor and docks, thank God, we will hear the band playing and the angels singing. It will be never to sail the rugged seas of this old life anymore. Are you on this old ship of Zion today? I thank God for that glad night, for that glad hour that I surrendered all to the Lord Jesus Christ, and got on that old ship to Zion. Truly I can say, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" (Psalms 116:12) "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." (Psalms 126:3).

"And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land." (Jer. 42:12). Yes, He had mercy upon me. He showed mercy to me and

thank God He caused me to return to my own land. Surely He hath delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from falling. What a blessed Savior I have!

Some morning when the night is past  
I shall awake in that new day;  
And steal away to find my ship—  
Awaiting for me at the quay.  
With anchors weighed, and sails all set,  
I venture out across the bay,  
To reunite in other lands  
With friends already gone that way.  
To no strange country will I go  
But to my own delightful land;  
Where love will bid me welcome,  
And love will lead me by the hand.  
The sea o'er which my ship shall sail,  
Will not be dark, but bathed with light;  
For when the shore-lines are all slipped,  
I will bid adieu to the last, dark night.  
“God be with you till we meet again;  
Keep love's banner floating o'er you;  
Smite death's threat'ning wave before you;  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet—till we meet:  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet:  
Till we meet—till we meet  
God be with you till we meet again.”

As we bring this little book to a close, I want to give a picture to you that read it of the place where you will spend eternity unless you have the blood of Jesus Christ applied to your

heart and unless you accept Him as your personal savior. Listen to it.

Hell! The prison house of despair, here are some things that will not be there;

No flowers will bloom on the banks of HELL, no beauties of nature we love so well;

No comforts of home, music and song, no friendship of joy will be found in that throng:

No children to brighten that long dreary night,

No love or peace, not one ray of light; no blood-washed soul with face beaming bright,

No loving smile in the region of night, no mercy no pity, pardon or grace,

No water, O God, what a terrible place! The pangs of the lost, no human can tell,

Not one moment's ease, there is no rest in HELL!

HELL! The prison house of despair! Here are some things that will be there:

Fire and brimstone are there, we know, for God in His word hath told us so;

Memory, remorse, suffering and pain, weeping and wailing, but all in vain;

Blasphemers, swearers, haters of God, sinners who refused to be washed in the blood;

Lovers of pleasure more than of God, Christ-rejecters while here on earth trod,

Murderers, gamblers, drunkards and liars will have their part in the lake of fire;

The filthy, the vile, the cruel and mean, what a  
horrible mob in HELL will be seen!

Yea, more than humans on earth can tell, are torments  
and woes of ETERNAL HELL!!!

Think about it friends, there is where you will spend eternity—in that region amidst weeping and gnashing of teeth, throughout the shackles of eternity, unless you accept Jesus Christ as your personal savior.

We painted a dark picture as we quoted that to you, but let us turn and look at the other side. Let's look at the picture of heaven and see where you can spend eternity with the blessed and with the angels and with the saints of God throughout eternity in heaven.

Heaven, the home of mansions fair, here are some  
things that will not be there;

No sin can enter the portals fair, the vile and unclean  
shall not be there,

No sickness, no death, suffering or pain, no devil, no  
demons can enter gain;

No darkness, no night, woe or despair, no cares or  
heavy burdens to bear;

No disappointment in that Fair Land, no tears or  
sights on the Golden Strand;

No fear or evil our peace to annoy, nothing to hurt,  
mar or destroy,

No headaches or grief, no not a trace, will ever be found  
in the holy place;

Yea, fairer than mortals here have known, are the things  
God hath prepared for his own;

Heaven, the place so wonderously fair,  
Here are some things that will be there:

God's throne, where the glorified prostrate fall, Jesus,  
The Savior, Fairest of all,

Saints of all ages, lovers of God, all who have been  
washed in the blood;

Loved ones and friends dear to the heart, will meet in  
that land never more to part.

Children of all kinds will be there, joyful and happy on  
yards of green,

Amid the flowers that never fade, gorgeous colors of  
every shade;

The River of Life and streets of Gold;

Oh, the beauties of HEAVEN can never be told;

Such music and singing on earth is not heard, nor  
can be described by pen or word;

The Tree of Life, with trees blooming fair, all manner  
of fruit will be found there;

Perfect love and perfect rest, companionship with all  
the blest,

Perfect peace, freedom from strife, everlasting joy,  
Eternal Life

Yes, more than mortals here have known, are the  
things GOD hath prepared for HIS own!!!

Sinner friend, as you read this little book think about that  
place. You can go to that place, it is a "whosoever will" salva-

tion. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Jesus loves you today. God gave His son, Jesus Christ himself, and shed His blood for you. Don't spurn the invitation until it is too late, because Hebrews 9:27 says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Luke 13:3 says "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Prepare to meet thy God.

THE END