

## Angels and Miracles in World War I and World War II

*'Arise, shine for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See darkness is on the land and deep darkness on the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.' We live in days when this scripture is beginning to be fulfilled. But the time of darkness and light together, will bring about a greater time of 'spiritual warfare' and will necessitate a deeper call to prayer. To help us get a sense of the power of prayer and the revealing of God during warfare we need look no further than WWI and WWII. These were extraordinary days in our nation to live through.*

*Dr Victor Pearce (who died August 2010) lived in both wars and chronicled the amazing stories of the revealing of the power of prayer and the intervention of the Lord during warfare. I think you will be moved and inspired, and I pray the Spirit of God will speak into your spirit through what you read –*

*Jonathan Bellamy, Cross Rhythms CEO.*

*The below accounts were first published in Miracles & Angels, Dr E K Victor Pearce and appear on the website: <http://www.crossrhythms.co.uk/articles/life/>*

**Dr Victor Pearce** became an honours graduate of London University in anthropology, through University College, and specialised at Oxford in prehistoric archaeology. He travelled to archaeological digs and conducted research around the Mediterranean including Turkey and the Levant and also in the USA. He read theology at the London College of Divinity; is a Prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral; was Rector of one of the largest Anglican parishes in England; has had 25 curates, built two churches and several halls (one by voluntary labour). He was a member of the Diocesan Synod; was chairman of an ad hoc committee of the Education Council for a new religious syllabus and a visiting lecturer in two Bible colleges.

Dr Victor Pearce was an eminent scientist, archaeologist and theologian. He was well known for his lectures and international broadcasts.

### Angels in War (The First World War) – Part 1

#### New Light on the Reasons For Supernatural Intervention

The classical examples of how angels have influenced battles come from reports made during the last two World Wars. Many have read of these eyewitness reports. They come from military sources as well as from groups of soldiers and various individuals.

In case you have only a few details I will give you more later including new ones whose reports I heard myself. We will also consider why angels should have intervened, and if there were special reasons why God should favour one side in the war more than the other.

This is especially relevant to the two World Wars, because two important historical events arose out of them, and without them they might not have happened. What were they? A result of the victory in the First World War was the Balfour Declaration. This established a home for Jews in Palestine. Arising out of the Second World War was the creation of the State of Israel. These two events are still having their impact upon the world, and an even greater impact is still to come.

I will give you details to substantiate those statements, but initially it is obvious that if Hitler had won the war, Israel would have been wiped out. But is there any indication that it was God's intention that Israel should return to Palestine? We shall look at that too, but I only mention it at this stage because people find it easier to believe unusual phenomena if they can see a reason why they should have happened. When we look at events we begin to see that without divine intervention victory could never have been given to the Allies.

### **Hidden Mysteries Behind The Two World Wars**

This period of supernatural manifestations really began two weeks before World War I.

On Sunday July 21st, 1914, a remarkable vision appeared at Llanelli in South Wales. This was first described to me by George Jeffreys (*George and brother Stephen were founders of the Elim Pentecostal Church*) when I was about eighteen years of age.

I remember the details clearly, and they were confirmed to me years later when a history of Stephen and George Jeffreys was published in the book, *Seven Pentecostal Pioneers*, MMS.

George Jeffreys was holding a mission in Catford, Southeast London, when he described how a vision appeared while his brother then was preaching in Llanelli. Stephen could see that the crowd's attention was riveted in his direction but not at him. He was puzzled so he came down from the platform to see what the people were pointing to.

To his amazement he saw on the wall behind where he'd been standing, and above where his head would have been, the figure of a lamb. Then, after a few minutes, it changed into the living face of Jesus Christ as the Man of Sorrows, for tears flowed down his cheeks. It was a living face because people could see quite clearly his eyelids flicker, hair was streaked with white so that he looked like a middle-aged man stricken with grief. Then it changed back again into the head of a lamb.

The lamb's head was alive and moving, then after a few minutes the lamb would change into the living, moving face of Jesus Christ again, the Man of Sorrows. George Jeffreys said that Jesus was weeping. Beautiful tears were rolling down his face and his eyelids flickered as the tears welled out. This indeed was the 'Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief,' for certainly he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, and the 'Lord had laid on him the sins of us all' (Isaiah 53:3).

Pastor Jeffreys had been preaching on the text: 'That I may know Jesus, and the fellowship of his sufferings.' He began to appeal to listeners to respond to that love by forsaking their sins and receiving forgiveness, and during that appeal the face of the man of Sorrows became enshrouded with glory.

An onlooker described Christ's face 'as most beautiful beyond description, kindly beyond words. And the eyes! They looked at you personally - those loving sad and glorious eyes which moved in the living face.' George Jeffreys told us how long this vision lasted. It was not just for a brief time. It lasted through the night into the morning. Crowds of people came in to see it. Long after the meeting, it was still there. News spread throughout the town and hundreds more flocked in to see for themselves, and to hear yet another message from the evangelist.

Of course, some tried to explain it away. One man actually went to the wall and tried to wipe it off but without effect. So another man who was a painter and decorator took a cloth and held it over the vision but to his surprise the vision shone right through. Another tried to explain it by saying it was a hallucination caused by a flickering of the electric light. Stephen Jeffreys did not argue, he merely switched off the light, and there still shining out was the Saviour's face even more living and real.

Another thought that it must be that a bright light was shining through some sort of stained-glass window. Stephen tested this suggestion also. He had all the blinds drawn and so excluded all light, but that made no difference. The heart-rending vision still shone on through that night and into the day.

News continued to blaze around the town, and all kinds of people flocked in to see the vision, people of all ages and types - boxers, tradesmen, professional men, alcoholics and others with problems.

Little did they know that within two weeks the whole world would change forever. The world's worst war would break out and hundreds of those young men who filed in to see the vision and had their doubts changed to faith would shed their blood on the fields of Flanders.

Even when the war broke out, it seemed to arise out of minor disputes. People in the streets were saying, 'It will be over in a few weeks!' It lasted four long years, during which millions died. Today one can go to Llanelli and see the names of the fallen, and among them would be a large percentage who'd filed past the vision, stopped to hear Stephen repeat his messages, yielded their lives to Christ and rejoiced in forgiveness from the Man of Sorrows.

### **I Saw the Zeppelin In Flames**

As I write this account, the eightieth anniversary of the end of the First World War is about to be celebrated, but very few people will be told of the hidden mysteries which were behind them - the real reason why the two World Wars started and why they finished when they did.

Having been born before the First World War, I remember vividly, at the age of six, rushing to the top of the nearby hill with others to hear the guns of London fire salvo after salvo of rejoicing that 'the war to end wars' had ended and that the Armistice was being signed that very minute at 11am on the 11th month in the year 1918. During the war, my mother entered me for a beautiful baby contest, while father was serving at the front in Mons and elsewhere with his Northants Regiment.

Have you seen pictures of an early German Zeppelin? Heath-Robinson couldn't have designed one better! Air tactics were more primitive then. Still vivid in my memory is the sight of that quaint old-fashioned Zeppelin coming down in the night fog of London near Norwood. In the second year of the war it was intended to be a morale shaker. The bombs weren't very big. Indeed the crew merely lifted them out over the edge of the basket, to drop them upon the astonished citizens.

Unfortunately for Count F. Zeppelin's invention, a British airman in his army biplane shot it down. I saw it come down in flames in the dense yellow fog a little way from our backstairs landing window. I was roused by the shouts of folk in the house to see the sight. For me in my innocence it was better than a fireworks display.

On the whole I enjoyed the air-raids of the first great war, but certainly not in the Second World War, for then we were pounded mercilessly from the air by over a thousand Nazi bombers night after night as soon as darkness came and then when morning light dawned and the all-clear sirens blew their shrill sweet music we went out to pick the bits of bodies from among the rubble of what was once their homes. For part of this time I served as chaplain and then as vicar in a London parish.

In the First World War, raids were comparatively insignificant. I grew big enough to merit a pushchair and this was a source of wartime enjoyment because in the event of an air-raid warning when mother was shopping, the policeman would shout, 'Get into the doorway for shelter! Quick!' But for mother, the only safe place for an air-raid was home and as fast as you could get there, and so she would rush the pushchair over the cobbles at tremendous speed and I would go bouncing around like ice cubes in a cocktail shaker. It was great fun, better than a funfair crazy car, and by the time we reached home the air raid would be over!

But as I grew I became aware of the great tragedies. Telegrams arrived at neighbour's doors and young women wept and names were added to long lists later to be chiselled into the cold stone of memorials in every village, town and city, and then one saw the newspaper clips of endless mud-filled trenches and saturation bombardments overseas.

## Angels in War (The First World War) – Part 2

### Angelic Intervention Reports

My father was in the first expeditionary force, which fought in the dramatic battle of Mons, about which strange reports began to filter through of angelic intervention. Dad was one of the 'Old Contemptibles', so called by the Kaiser when he referred to Britain's small force of seasoned soldiers as 'a contemptible little army'. Dad wore a special medal on his chest.

When war broke out unexpectedly, Britain was unprepared, so this hurriedly equipped force was sent across the Channel. It was far weaker in guns and manpower than the opponents who had shocked the world by massacring helpless Belgian home-dwellers, but our army fought a dogged rearguard action as they fell back before the terrific impact of massed enemy attacks.

A big thrill was when Dad came home on his first leave, after the battle of Mons. I remember when he lifted me up on his broad khaki-uniformed chest. I did not know how many Old Contemptibles would never return. Dad was surprised that the 'contemptible little army' managed to hold up the German advance during two days' fighting around Mons.

Those two days were vital, because the war could have been lost there and then. Those gallant Old Contemptibles did not know at first that there was more to tell about what happened behind the scenes.

### The First Angelic Intervention

Individual stories and official reports began to filter through about strange happenings at Mons in Belgium. A lieutenant colonel reported:

On August the 26th, 1914, the battle of Le Cateau [near Mons] was fought. We came into action at dawn and fought until dusk. We were heavily shelled by artillery during the day, and all our division had a horrific time of it. Our brigade, however, retired in good order. We were on the march all the night of the 26th; and on the 27th with only about two hours rest, the brigade to which I belong was rearguard to the division, so during the 27th we took up a great many different positions to cover the retirement of the rest of the division, so we had very hard work and by the night of the 27th we were all absolutely worn out with fatigue - both body and mental fatigue - but nevertheless we moved in excellent order and were not being routed.

There must have been a reason why they were not overwhelmed. What was it?

I was riding along in the column with two other officers, and I became conscious of the fact that in the fields on both sides of the road along which we were marching, I could see a very large body of horsemen. These horsemen seemed to have the appearance of cavalry, and they seemed to be riding across the fields and going in the same direction as us and keeping level with us. The night was not very dark, and I fancied that I could see squadron after squadron of these cavalymen quite distinctly. I didn't say a word about them at first, but I watched them for about twenty minutes. The other two officers stopped talking. 'Did you see anything?' one asked. I told him what I'd seen. 'I've been watching them for the last twenty minutes,' he said. When we reached the next halt, another officer took out a party of men to investigate the mystery. They found no one there, and yet the same phenomenon was seen by many men in our column.

### The Sound of Marching

In the First World War, a soldier's wife received a letter from her husband, which said: 'During the battle I saw the angels all around. It's nothing short of a miracle.'

He then went on to describe how he'd been ordered to advance into a certain wood with his troops. On reaching the road, to his surprise, his horse stopped dead and nothing whatever could make his mount move. He turned to his ADC, but he found that the same thing had happened to him and to the whole troop. Nothing would make the horses move. The whole troop was at a standstill so they could do nothing else but return to their former position.

Later they discovered that a strong enemy ambush had been waiting for them along the road they were following.

The incident encouraged them greatly, but there were a lot of questions in their minds. Was it some instinct in the horses? They'd never experienced anything so unanimous amongst so many horses! Perhaps it was yet another supernatural intervention. Perhaps it was something like Balaam's ass in the Bible. The ass refused to go on because it saw an angel of the Lord standing in the way. Its rider was angry and tried to whip the horse forward time and time again and then the rider saw the angel blocking his path. The angel then rebuked Balaam for trying to twist religion to his own ends. If the war incident was similar then it was both horses and angels involved.

King David in the Bible was often seeking guidance. God told him, 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will guide you with my eye.' David was often in peril. On one occasion his country was invaded by the Philistines which threatened his very existence. David enquired of the Lord, 'Shall I advance against the Philistines?'

'Yes,' said the Lord, 'Go up and I will deliver them into your hands.'

There was a big breakthrough, and David destroyed all their idols and images.

But the enemy invaded again, and again David asked for guidance, 'Shall I advance against them?' This time God said:

'No! Circle round behind them, and then wait silently. Wait until you hear an angelic sound! The sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees. That sound will be the hosts of the Lord marching out before you. That will be the signal. The moment you hear that you must act promptly and burst out onto the enemy!' David did and avoided a trap. He routed the invaders and pushed them out of the country.

### **Newspaper Reports**

Reports began to come into the newspapers. The Observer of August 22nd, 1915, said that a nurse in a military hospital was told by a soldier that at a critical period in the retreat from Mons, a luminous angel with outstretched wings came between the Germans and themselves. At that moment the onslaught of the enemy slackened. Unable to credit the story she discussed it with a group of officers. A colonel looked up and said: 'Young lady, the thing happened! You need not be incredulous. I saw it myself'.

Confirmation also came from the enemy. In a Berlin newspaper it was also reported on July 28th, 1915, that a regiment which was ordered to do a certain duty in battle was censured for failing to carry out certain orders. They reported that they did attempt to charge forward but were absolutely powerless. Why? Because their horses turned sharply round and fled like the wind and nothing could stop them.

A German lieutenant, a prisoner in British hands, said:

I only know that we were charging full on the British at a certain place, and in a moment we were stopped. It was like going at full speed and being pulled up suddenly as if on a precipice, but there was no precipice there, nothing at all, only our horses swerved round and fled. We could do nothing.

Pax, a correspondent of Light dated July 10th, 1915 was enquiring into the many stories of the visions at the battlefield, which were widely circulating. He quoted the following from an artilleryman: and they absolutely vouch for the truth of it.

Two English nurses at a hospital at St Germain-en-Laye, Paris, stated that the accounts were not only implicitly believed, but were absolutely known to be true . . . 'No French newspaper,' she said, 'would have made itself ridiculous by disputing the authenticity of what was vouched for by so many thousands of eyewitnesses.'

The paper Universe reported an officer's letter from the battlefield about a party of thirty men and an officer who were cut off in a trench. In order not to be trapped they decided to make a sortie against the enemy, and although they were so few against so large a force, they dashed out into the open shouting, 'St George for England!' As they ran on they became aware of a large company of men going along with them, and even leading them on against the enemy trenches. Afterwards the officer talked with a prisoner whom they had captured. The prisoner asked a very strange question: 'Who was that officer on a great white horse who led them? Although he was so prominent, none of our men had been able to hit him!'

G. G. Monck of Martock reported a young lieutenant in Oxford who'd been all through the retreat from Mons and had been wounded at Neuve Chapelle. He said it was simply miraculous, but was perfectly true. Almost the same thing happened at Neuve Chapelle.

A young woman who was at Stepney Soldiers and Sailors meeting, said she had just received a letter from her husband who was at the battle of Neuve Chapelle. He wrote: In the course of the battle I saw the angels all around us.'

### **It's Happened Before!**

Yes, it's happened before! Long ago in fact. It's recorded in the oldest book in the world. Compare these reports of Mons with a similar record in the Bible: 2 Kings 6:16,17, when Elisha was given the ability to see God's hosts of angelic fighters all around.

When the king of Syria was at war with Israel, he said to his officers, 'We will mobilise our forces at ... (naming a place in secret)'. Immediately Elisha the prophet warned the king of Israel, 'Don't go near . . . (naming the same place), for the Syrians are mobilising their troops there!'

The king of Israel sent a scout to see if Elisha was right, and sure enough he had saved him from disaster. This happened several times.

The king of Syria was puzzled and called together his officers and demanded, 'Which of you is the traitor? Who has been informing the king of Israel about my plans?'

'It's not us, sir.'

One of the officers replied, 'Elisha the prophet tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in the privacy of your bedroom!'

'Go and find out where he is at once!' raged the king. 'We'll send our troops to seize him!'

The report came back, 'Elisha is at Dothan!'

So one night when it was very dark, the king of Syria sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the prophet's servant got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses and chariots everywhere.

'Alas, my master!' he cried out to Elisha. 'What shall we do now?'

'Don't panic!' Elisha told him. 'Our army is greater than theirs!'

The servant couldn't believe his ears. Was the prophet mad? In answer, the prophet prayed: 'Lord open the young man's eyes and let him see.'

The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and he saw horses of fire and chariots of fire everywhere upon the mountain!

As the Syrian army advanced upon them, Elisha prayed: 'Lord please make them blind!' and God did. Then Elisha went out and told them, 'You've come the wrong way! This isn't the right city. Follow me and I will take you to the man you're looking for!' He led them to Samaria!

As soon as they arrived, Elisha prayed, 'Lord, now open their eyes and let them recognise where they are.' The Lord did, and to their consternation they were in Samaria right by the strong capital city of Israel!

When the king of Israel saw that the Syrians were at his mercy, he shouted over to Elisha, 'Oh, sir, shall I slay them? Shall I slay them?'

'Certainly not!' Elisha told him. 'Do we kill prisoners of war? Give them food and drink and send them back home!'

Well the king did more than that. He made them a great feast and then sent them back home to their king. The Syrian raiders were quite flummoxed. They did not know how to react to such kindness, so they stayed away from the land of Israel.

### **Unbelief Leads To More Evidence**

Of course there are many who find it difficult to believe such stories in the Bible. Such events are outside their everyday experiences. It was the same in the First World War. An outburst of discussion appeared in the newspapers. Some were suggesting naturalistic explanations. So because of this a private soldier, Robert Cleaver, swore the following affidavit. It was printed in the daily newspapers, and years later a copy of it was sent to me by Mr C. J. Atton of Prestatyn:

AFFIDAVIT. I, Robert Cleaver No. 10515, a private in the 1st Cheshire Regiment of His Majesty's Army, make oath and say as follows: That I personally was at Mons and saw the vision of angels with my own eyes. Sworn at Kinmel Park in the County of Flint this 20th day of August 1915. Robert Cleaver. Before me Geo S. Hazelhurst, one of his majesties Justices of the Peace, acting in and for the County of Flint.

In an interview with Mr Hazelhurst, Private Cleaver explained that things were at their bleakest with our troops. If it hadn't been for this supernatural intervention they would have been annihilated. Suddenly the vision came between them and the German cavalry.

### **Debated In The Churches**

The subject began to be debated in the churches. The following is taken from a detailed address given at Bridge Street Methodist Church, Mansfield, and was reported in the Mansfield Reporter. The information was given from a high source as it was given by the Assistant Chaplain General to the Forces, The Reverend Owen S. Watkins, CMB, CBE.

At the retreat from Mons, the only division of British cavalry was practically wiped out in a few minutes. It was a sad story which never has been told in full detail. The 'Charge of the Light Brigade' was child's play compared to that action. Out of a regiment of 500-strong only 12 men were left alive.

These figures were confirmed recently on BBC1TV on the eightieth anniversary of Armistice Day, 1998, when one of those twelve ex-soldier survivors gave his traumatic reminiscences. He was over one hundred years old, had lost the sight of one eye and was being pushed around in an invalid chair. On the screen we saw him take the presenter to the actual field. No one would have thought that such a tragedy had happened. Fresh green grass covered rising ground with a wooden fence on the far side behind which was a forest. With a sweep of the hand the survivor indicated where the 500 had perished, and the lower corner where the rain of exploding shells had missed him.

All the time a dogged rearguard action was fought by the British trying to hold back a mass of grey-coated 'Huns' advancing shoulder to shoulder. Without the angelic intervention the thinly-spread British would have been overwhelmed.

Another church where the subject was aired was St Mary-at-Hill, in the City of London. Dr Richardson, who I knew much later when I attended the church as a young man, advertised that he was going to speak on the 'Angels of Mons'. This beautiful Christopher Wren church was crowded and the result was reported in the well-known London Evening News.

'I would like to ask,' said Dr Richardson, 'whether there is anyone in the congregation who has letters in his possession or has seen such letters from soldiers who can tell of seeing angels on the battlefield.'

A lady at the back of the church stood up. 'I have seen letters from three different soldiers. In each one there is a clear and convincing testimony that the soldiers had themselves seen the angels. All the letters were written in convincing matter-of-fact statements. The soldiers declared that the invaders had been kept back by troops of angels. They also averred that the French soldiers affirmed that they had also seen the angelic forces.' Many others in the congregation added similar evidence.

Mrs Quest of St Leonards-on-Sea told how a nurse just back from France spoke to her on the train because she was wearing her son's regimental badge. The nurse was bringing with her three letters from different soldiers, each one firmly declaring that they had personally seen the angels, and that the French soldiers had seen them also. They described a powerful figure on a horse. He had golden hair and his face shone, as did his white garments, and he had a great troop of horsemen in white.

Many in church must have thought of Revelation chapter nineteen:

I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse, and him who sat upon it was named Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes were a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns. His name is called The Word of God, and his armies followed him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword and with it he will smite the nations.

### **The Stampede**

The soldiers' letters agreed that the intervention came at the height of crisis. It made the German horses stampede. German prisoners who were taken tried to account for it. Some said that the English must have had spies who tampered with their horses. Others said they just had to flee because large reinforcements for the English suddenly came up. But the English soldiers described it as a phantom army which appeared as they had no reinforcements; in fact they were so thin on the ground that they could only space one British Tommy for every fifteen yards to make a firing line.

### **Newspapers Continue the Debate**

More newspapers came in on the debate. They were the Manchester Guardian, the Daily Mail, the Observer and many others.

Some reported that a dying soldier had said to a nurse, 'It's a funny thing, sister, isn't it, how the Germans say we had a lot of troops behind us.'

'Do they?' she said.

'Yes, the German prisoners ask "How could we break through your lines when you had thousands of troops behind you?"'

'Sister, I told them, "You must be joking! Thousands of troops! We were just a thin line of only two regiments, and nothing behind us."'

A sergeant major responded to this nurse saying that he'd heard an officer talking to a German prisoner who also spoke of the crowd of troops behind the British line. He said all the Germans had seen them.

The Church Times also published letters on this subject. One was from a Miss Campbell attending the wounded. She was bandaging up the head of a Lancaster Fusilier who was a Methodist when he told her, 'The phantom army was led on by a tall man with yellow hair. He was in golden armour and mounted on a white horse, and holding high his sword.'

A man sitting on the floor beside him butted in. 'It's true, Sister! We all saw it! It was just as the Germans were coming up over the hill like a solid wall in their thousands - then they all turned and fled, and although we were so few we rushed after them.'

Miss Campbell said that she also heard similar stories from Russian troops, two British officers, and three men of the Irish Guards.

The Church Times then published a letter by an objector named Mr Machin. In reply, a lieutenant colonel wrote: 'The British army was saved in a manner which puzzles the intellects of all soldiers.'

## **Angels in War (The First World War) – Part 3**

### **The Reason for Supernatural Intervention**

Can we find a reason why God should have intervened in the First World War? There are a number of reasons, but the one I have already mentioned is that victory for the Allies made it possible for the British Government to promise a home to be established in Palestine for the Jews. We will look at the following questions:

1. What made the British government make this promise?
2. Had God said anywhere that he was going to bring Israel back to the 'Promised Land' after so long away?

### **Charter For A Jewish Commonwealth**

Newspaper reports answer the first question. The Kemsley National Newspaper revealed years afterwards the following:

Israel elects Weizmann. Dr Chaim Weizmann, the greatest figure in world Zionism, was elected President of the Provisional Council of the State of Israel in Tel Aviv last night. Dr Weizmann is 73. He helped to secure the Balfour Declaration of 1917 promising support for creating in Palestine a national home for the Jews. Dr Weizmann was once offered a seat in the House of Lords in recognition of his service as a chemist to Britain in World War I.

So what was that service? He invented TNT, the high explosive which made the British weapons more powerful and hastened victory. Here is another news clip from the time of the Second World War:

It is well known that Dr Weizmann, the Zionist head, saved the situation for the Allies in the last [First] World War by inventing the cheap process of manufacturing acetone for TNT explosive. For this service to the Allied cause the Balfour Declaration promising the setting up in Palestine of a National Home for the Jews was made. Will he do it again? An Australian paper gives the news that Dr Weizmann has prepared a formula for a new super-bomb said to surpass anything yet invented, and to have created a sensation among military experts. Later news is that the Doctor has offered the United States Government a new method of producing synthetic

rubber. Dr Stephen Wise says he would not be surprised if this new invention wins for the Zionists a Charter for a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine. (Source: The Christian Herald.)

Soon after that promise of a home for Jews, victory was given to General Allenby over Turkey who governed Palestine. British forces then marched into Jerusalem without a shot being fired simply because the Air Force flew over Jerusalem. This made the Turks panic and flee out while there was time. The Turkish newspapers had the date at the heading: on one side it was 1335 in the Moslem date system. That was the figure given to Daniel in chapter 12 verse 12. On the other side of the heading the Western date was given. It was 1917. (See my book Evidence for Truth, Volume 3: Prophecy.) It is stated in Daniel 12:12 that the Israeli who reaches the year 1335 will be blessed. Dr Richardson commented:

Our year 1917 is the year 1335 in the Moslem calendar when the Balfour Declaration established a home in Palestine. In 1886 Dr Gratton Guinness correctly interpreted these prophecies thirty-one years before fulfilment and wrote them in his book Light for the Last Days, Marshall Ltd. 'There can be no question that those who live to see the year 1917 will have reached one of the most important of these terminal years.'

You might wonder why God wanted to bring back Israel to Palestine after such a long time. Briefly the answer is, because he promised Abraham and Moses that he would do this. He also told many of the prophets that he would. In my book on prophecy I review all that God told the many prophets, so I won't enlarge upon it here except to give you an example from that well-known passage in Ezekiel chapter 37.

It starts with the dramatic vision of the valley full of dry bones. You may remember that Negro-spiritual song about the bones all-clicking together again after lying so long in that old battlefield. Ezekiel asks God, 'What do you mean by this?'

The Lord replies, 'Behold, I will take the descendants of Israel from among the nations where they've gone, and will gather them from all sides, and bring them back to their own land.'

Then he explains that they will return as the united twelve tribes. They would not be divided into the ten northern and two southern tribes. Then he says, 'Take a stick and write on it "Judah". Now take a longer stick and write on it "Ephraim" meaning the ten northern tribes. Next, join them together with a quick hand movement so that they become one stick. This illustrates that when I bring them back to their own land they will return as one nation in Palestine. The united twelve tribes of Israel.'

That is why today it is ISRAEL which is on the map not Judah, the two tribes. Judah returned after only seventy years of exile as God told Jeremiah they would but were scattered again to join the rest of Israel after they rejected Christ. The longer time when all the tribes would be scattered among the nations of the world is called by the Rabbis 'The Diaspora' meaning the dispersion which Ezekiel 38:8 says will last a very long time until the end of the age.

### **How the Churches Got Excited In 1917**

When the news came through about the Balfour Declaration all the churches were thrilled and said, 'This means the end of the age is near!'

Huge meetings were started teaching about the second coming of Christ. But God's timing is not man's. This was only the 'eleventh hour'. It was not the 'twelfth hour' when 'Behold the bridegroom [Christ] comes' (Matthew 25:6).

To mark the eleventh hour the Armistice was signed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, and each year since the Remembrance trumpets have sounded reveille - wake up! - before the last trumpet sounds the 12th hour.

Although this enthusiasm lasted a long time it gradually faded in the following decades just as that verse says it would, so Christ's return will take many by surprise.

## **The Second Angelic Intervention**

Four weary years of war had dragged on. Millions of young soldiers had lost their lives leaving young widows to grow old and die (although some are still with us and have led happy lives of service).

In the spring of 1918 the Germans were determined to end the war by a massive assault. They broke through the Allied line. Heavy casualties were sustained. Reserves were practically exhausted. Mr W.B. Grant supplied the following report to me.

## **The White Cavalry Of Bethune**

Describing how the German advance was checked, an article in the journal of the Brigade of Guards (Households Brigade Magazine) states:

At the focal point of the enemy's advance, at Bethune, the Germans concentrated on a slight rise beyond the town, yet the ground there was absolutely bare and none of our men were there; nevertheless, enemy machine guns and shells raked it from end to end with lead. As suddenly as it had started the enemy's fire ceased, and in the complete silence there rose a lark's thrilling song of thankfulness. The dense line of German troops which had started to move forward to their victory in mass formation, halted dead. As the British watched they saw it break! The Germans threw down everything they had and fled in frantic panic!

## **What Caused Such An Amazing Turn Of Events?**

A senior German officer who was taken prisoner immediately afterwards gives this extraordinary explanation (taken from the account of the Staff Captain, 1st Corps Intelligence, 1st British Army Headquarters, 1916-18, who was present and himself took the statement):

The order had been given to advance in mass formation, and our troops were marching behind us singing their way to victory when Fritz, my lieutenant here, said, 'Herr Kapitan, just look at that open ground behind Bethune. There is a brigade of cavalry coming up through the smoke drifting across it! They must be mad, these Englishmen, to advance against such a force as ours in the open! I suppose they must be cavalry of one of their Colonial Forces, for look! They're all in white uniform and are mounted on white horses!'

'Strange,' I said. 'I've never heard of English having any white cavalry whether Colonial or not. Anyway, they've all been fighting on foot for several years past and in khaki, not white.'

'Well, they're plain enough,' he replied. 'But look! Our guns have got them in there range now; they'll be blown to pieces in no time.'

We actually saw the shells bursting among the horses and their riders which still came forward at a quiet walk trot, in parade-ground formation, each man and horse in his exact place. Shortly afterwards our machine guns opened a heavy fire, raking the advancing cavalry with a hail of lead; but on they still came and not a single man or horse fell. Steadily they advanced, clear in the shining sunlight, and a few paces in front of them rode their leader, a fine figure of a man, whose hair, like spun gold, shone in an aura around his head. By his side was a great sword, but his hands lay quietly holding the reins, as his huge white charger bore him proudly forward.

In spite of heavy shelling and concentrated machine-gun fire the white cavalry advanced, remorselessly as fate, like the incoming tide on a sandy beach. Then a great fear fell over me. I turned to flee; yes I, an officer of the Prussian Guard, fled panic stricken, and around me were hundreds of terrified men, whimpering like children, throwing away their weapons and accoutrements in order not to have their movements impeded ... all running. Their one desire was to get away from that advancing white cavalry; but above all from their awe-inspiring leader whose hair shone like a golden aureole.

That is all I have to tell you. We are beaten. The German Army is broken. There may be fighting, but we have lost the war; we are beaten by the white cavalry ... I cannot understand ... I cannot understand.

During the days that followed, many German prisoners were examined and their accounts tallied in substance with the one given here.

#### **Letter from Mrs Peggy Main of Ascot, Berkshire**

The 'White Cavalry of Bethune' was recounted by Captain Hayward. He was Intelligence Officer to Staff Headquarters on the Western Front. He was the officer who interviewed the German soldiers who were retreating for fear of what they had seen - white cavalry with a leader who had a halo round his head and was mounted upon a huge white charger. Captain Hayward later examined a number of German prisoners, all who had a strained look on their faces, and all told basically the same story. Strangely, Captain Hayward himself had seen nothing on that empty open ground!

This story was confirmed when my husband and I were attending a fellowship conference. An elderly lady there said her brother had been present when the Germans in question had been brought in. They were absolutely terrified by what they had seen.

Mrs Peggy Main added, 'I have heard that this vision followed a national day of prayer in Britain.' It was the only one that Britain had in the First World War. The churches were holding prayer meetings throughout the war, but it was only when they urged the government to have a National Day of Prayer that defeat was turned into victory. Germany had no national days of prayer in either war. A further report tells me that the USA also joined in that national day of prayer, and that it had been called jointly by Parliament and US Congress.

#### **The Vision As Seen From The British Area**

Captain Cecil W. Hayward tells us how the Bethune angelic intervention appeared to the British ranks. He says that Germany's furious attack was intended to win victory before the American forces arrived later in July, 1918. The noise of the gun barrage was so terrific that even three miles away Captain Hayward felt the ground heave under his feet.

A section of the trenches had been taken over by the Portuguese because there were very few relief troops available. The British had been holding the line for the Portuguese. It was their first taste of battle. The intense rain of shrapnel raining down upon them blotted them out completely. This made a gap in the front line through which the Germans came pouring. The few Portuguese still alive threw down their weapons and came staggering through to the British who were retiring in good order, keeping up a stiff rearguard action as they went.

It was then that a report reached Captain Hayward: 'Fritz seems to have gone barmy, Sir!' The enemy had suddenly stopped firing at the British and were raining down their fire on 'empty naked open ground rising just outside Bethune'.

Captain Hayward was puzzled and anxious to see what was happening, so he reached a lookout point and saw that the enemy was raking that empty area backwards and forwards with heavy bursts of massed machine-guns.

Hayward was astonished and moved to see better. There were no troops within sight against whom they could be firing with increasing fury. Then the shattering noise of bombardment suddenly ceased. There was a pause. Then to the amazement of all, the Germans threw down their arms, haversacks, rifles, coats and anything which would hinder their flight and ran back in panic.

A deathly silence settled upon the Bethune mound, and then it was that the lark arose. It soared up and up singing its thrilling message of triumph.

It was unbelievable that those well-drilled, disciplined Germans who were advancing in mass formation as a victorious army, suddenly broke up into groups of frightened men on the run. A sergeant brought in German officers as prisoners two at a time. They spluttered out stories of white cavalry led by their awesome commander on a great white horse whose hair was like spun gold shining like a halo round his head. They described his great sword, and how the white cavalry advanced remorselessly on, untouched by the hail of missiles and bullets firing through them.

Yet Captain Hayward said: 'We could swear that we saw no cavalry in action, neither did any of us see so much as a single white horse, either with or without a rider!' So what did the Germans see? A vision?

Shortly after this the American forces came into action, and from July 11th, the Allies advanced, and by November 11th the war had ended at the 11th hour, on the 11th month - 11 months after Israel had been promised a homeland in Palestine.

I saw heaven opened, and behold there was a white horse! He who sat upon it is named faithful and true, the Word of God. He judges justly and makes war. Heavenly armies in fine white clean linen, follow him on white horses. (Revelation, concerning the end times, chapter 19)

### **Only the first stage, making a second war necessary**

But that home in Palestine was only the first stage. God told Jeremiah that he would bring back Israel in two stages. First, it would be a pleasant prospect attracting many Jewish pioneers who would change a desert land into prosperous fertility as foretold by many scriptures. Then the second stage would be a desperate one. The Jews would be hounded back. That stage started with the Hitler gas chambers in which six million Jews perished, causing a mass exodus to Palestine and the creation of the State of Israel. Here is what God said about this in Jeremiah 16:14-16:

'Look! The days are coming,' says the Lord, 'when the main saying will no longer be, "The Lord lives who brought up the people from the land of Egypt." It will change to, "The Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the North country, and out of all the other countries where he had driven them." For I will bring them back to their own land which I gave to their fathers.'

Then the two stages are described:

'Look! I will send for many fishers and they will entice them back with bait, and afterwards I will send for many hunters and they will hound them back from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks.' Here is something for you to think about: If Hitler had won his war he would have continued into Palestine to wipe out the Jews! There would have been no Israel! That's why there had to be supernatural intervention in the Second World War, and the Jewish gas chamber holocaust motivated the United Nations Organisation to create the State of Israel after the Second World War.

It is my view that if governments had read the prophecies, believed God's declared purpose, and acted on it, there would have been no horrific World Wars.

## The Second World War Miracles Part 1

### The Supernatural Events Resulting From National Prayer

Yes, there were some angels seen in the Second World War, but so far as one can tell, not so dramatically as in the First World War. It was evident that the main acts of God came after each national day of prayer. There were seven of these, and I kept a diary record of the events which followed each one.

We will look at the angelic incidents first. During the Second World War, I collected clippings from the newspapers, which reported manifestations.

### Strangest Story Of The War

THIS STORY, AS TOLD TO THE NEWS CHRONICLE LAST NIGHT, IS THE STRANGEST YET OF THE WAR AND IS A PARALLEL OF THE FAMOUS "ANGEL OF MONS" LEGEND OF THE LAST WAR:

**M**R. FOWLER of Firl, Lewes, was attending his sheep on the Sussex Downs when he noticed a white line spreading slowly across the sky.

Gradually to his eyes it took the shape of Christ crucified on the Cross. Then six angels took form.

The apparition lasted for two minutes, then faded.

Mr. Fowler rushed down the hillside to tell the village, but found he was not the only witness.

Villagers working on the land said they had also seen it.

A Newhaven evacuee, Mrs. Steer, of The Street, Firl, and her sister, Mrs. Evans, said: "We could see the nail in the crossed feet of Christ, and one of the angels with arms upstretched appeared to be praying."

Similar statements were made by seven other villagers.

★

The comment of the Rector of Lewes, the Rev. A. G. Gregor, when interviewed by the News Chronicle, was: "I only wish that I could believe it, but it seems to me that if such a thing really occurred more people would have seen it."

### Angelic Appearances

The News Chronicle, a national newspaper, reported the vision of Christ crucified followed by angels in the sky over Sussex. The paper described it as the strangest event yet of the war and compared it with the Angels of Mons (*see Newspaper cutting **Strangest Story of The War of the Sussex Vision of Christ on the cross attended by angels***).

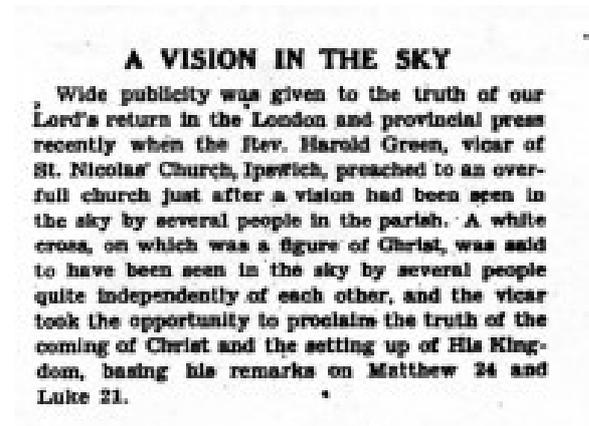
My second cutting is from 1943. It is headed: 'Vicar interprets the vision in the sky'. A similar vision to the one seen at Lewes 200 miles away three years earlier had been seen at Ipswich by the Reverend Harold Green. A report in the Christian Herald at the time said:

Wide publicity was given to the truth of our Lord's return in the London and provincial press recently when the Rev Harold Green, vicar of St Nicholas' Church, Ipswich, preached to an over-full church just after a vision had been seen in the sky by several people in the parish. A white cross, on which was a figure of Christ, was said to have been seen by several people quite independently of each other, and the vicar took the opportunity to proclaim the truth of the coming of Christ and the setting up of his Kingdom, basing his remarks on Matthew 24 and Luke 21.

My third cutting is from the South London Newspaper, this was reported on September 8th, 1944, and headed: 'ANGEL' SEEN IN PECKHAM DURING AIR RAID.

Mr D.L. Phillips said, 'The figure was perfect; there was no mistaking it.' Mr Halsey says that he was surprised when he looked up into the sky to see a large angel holding out his arms as if to shield the inhabitants from flying bombs which were coming over. There were at least eight others who also saw it.

## Victories after each National Day of Prayer



### *A Vision in the Sky – Newspaper cutting of Ipswich vision of Christ on the cross*

The big features of the 1939-45 war were the seven national days of prayer and the dramatic events which followed each one. They saved Britain from disaster.

My record of these days of prayer as they occurred from 1940 to 1945 provided the details of each deliverance or victory which followed. Why did I do this? Because I knew that it would be useful for reminding Britain and the world in future years, and here I am doing it at the age of eighty-five! The fiftieth anniversary of D-Day was observed without any

mention of those prayer days, when at the call of King and Parliament, the majority of the population crowded into the churches and overflowed outside, because they knew our position was desperate. The only acknowledgement so far as I know, was a report I gave on BCC Radio Stoke which they have repeated since, and on the United Christian Broadcasters' European network, and on Trans World Radio.

## Seven National Days of Prayer in Six Years

Of seven separate days of prayer called by King and Parliament in the six years of war, as many as three were held within the first twelve months because the situation was known to be so desperate. In gratitude for deliverance after the war, the government passed a law making Christian teaching in schools compulsory. Now it is difficult to get permission even to mention the name of Christ, and many children lack ethical and moral teaching. The results in our community life are obvious.

Yes, Britain was in a desperate situation. We were quite unprepared for war and humanly speaking we were left in an impossible situation. That situation worsened when France fell to the Nazis, and the British Army of only 350,000 men were hemmed in with backs to the sea at Dunkirk. All the protection that was left in Britain was a 'Dad's Army practising drill with broomsticks'.

Before calling the nation to the first national Day of Prayer, Winston Churchill said he had, 'Hard and heavy tidings to announce'. The commander of the British Forces, Lt General Sir Frederick Morgan, said there was no way out barring a miracle. That miracle happened after the first Day of Prayer.

- 1. The first National Day of Prayer was called for by King George VI on March 27th, 1940. The miracle took place during the week following. Most people have heard how the English Channel was absolutely calm all the days during which thousands of private boats and yachts, including my father-in-law's boat, went to and fro rescuing from the sands of Dunkirk 338,000 men of the British Expeditionary Army, leaving only 12,000 sadly to become prisoners or killed.**

## Drama of the Little Boats

The following details are supplied by Lt Commander E. Keble Chatterton:

*Things happened quickly; immense possibilities widened. Instead of, perhaps, a lucky 25,000 or so, more than ten times that number might be saved. But how? It all resulted from a marvel of detailed organisation. Already the Admiralty had with great foresight given notice that all privately owned motorcraft of 30 to 100 feet in length were to be at their disposal. So, likewise, by means of a licensing system for all coasting vessels, the*

*Ministry of Shipping were kept aware of movements and could lay their hands on suitable vessels almost instantly. The congregating of a vast improvised fleet numbering nearly 1,000 units therefore was just a matter of telephoning and telegraphing. Nothing like it had ever been devised. Trawlers, drifters, Thames sailing and motor barges, little cargo carriers, colliers, motor-boats, motor-yachts, 17 of the Royal National lifeboats, open skiffs, oared boats from liners, sailing boats from Southend beach usually employed for pleasure parties, tugs from the Thames, even the six motor bawleys that gather up cockles from the estuary; pleasure paddle steamers accustomed to ply their trade along the Clyde or at Llandudno, or Margate; one of the LFB fireboats, steam yachts that were veterans when fighting U-boats in the last war; Dutch schooners and Belgian craft, swelled this extraordinary list till they numbered 665, in addition to the 222 naval units. Cross-channel steamers with ample passenger accommodation and high speed, normally carrying from seven to fourteen deck-hands, now received additional volunteers to man the boats which would have to be used as ferries from the beach. One amateur yachtsman assisted by his son, sailed his yacht all the way from Southampton to Dunkirk on his own initiative, and fetched home a batch of tired soldiers.*

So then the army was back in Britain having lost their armaments, as helpless as sitting ducks for Hitler.

It was a miracle that Hitler didn't follow up his victory immediately. That first Day of Prayer was followed up by two more within five months, so within five months we had three national days of prayer, not called by the Church, but called by the King and Parliament. But did the nation respond as a nation? They did! Hardly anybody stayed away. The churches and halls were crammed full and overflows outside were sometimes bigger than the crush inside.

### **The Cabinet's Words of Encouragement**

At this time the war cabinet sought to inform clergy in Britain of the serious situation while at the same time providing a positive message of hope and encouragement. The first of a series of letters from Duff Cooper at the Ministry of Information was circulated on 21st June, 1940 advising what Hitler was seeking to do that autumn and to prepare the congregations to fight 'side by side for the fields and villages and cities that we love'.

## **The Second World War Miracles Part 2**

### **Tunbridge Wells Empty!**

Resulting from the inspiration of the call to prayer, we have the story of 'The Town That Stood Still'. A local greengrocer put forward the idea that every shop should close one morning in July 1940 for an hour of intercession. It received the enthusiastic support of the local Traders' Association so the people of Tunbridge Wells, as never before in their history, put themselves in God's hands.

### **Tennis Courts Empty!**

- 2. The second Day of Prayer was on Sunday, August 11th, 1940. This was a national youth call to prayer. The King had called all the young people to pray. I was walking past a large area of tennis courts on the way to church. The tennis courts were deserted except for a perplexed young man holding a tennis racket. He was completely alone.**

'Where have they all gone?' he exclaimed.

'They're all in church praying for national deliverance,' I said. 'Why don't you go!'

'I can't believe this! My pals have never gone to church even once in their lives!'

### **The Answer**

Britain could not know that within the week that followed, the overweight Nazi, Air Field Marshall Goering, commenced the first stage in the Battle of Britain. It failed. The relatively small British force of Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down 180 Nazi bombers over South-east England. The rate of interception excelled by far anything that could be expected or explained by radar, said our air commander.

#### **3. The next national Day of Prayer was only a month later on September 8th, 1940. Calling for another Day of Prayer so soon showed how desperate Parliament knew the situation to be.**

The answer again was immediate and it was during this period that people in the streets began to see angels in the sky. A more determined Nazi air attack was made by sending five fighter planes to accompany every single bomber during the week following. Yet against all odds, as many as 185 Nazi planes were shot down. It was sad for us padres to see the empty canteen tables of those who did not return, but they had shot down a far greater number than our own losses. In fact Air Chief Marshall Dowding said: 'I will say with absolute conviction that I can trace the intervention of God . . . Humanly speaking victory was impossible!'

And that was during the week following our third National Day of Prayer, and the newspapers were not afraid to print that statement by Dowding.

Goering, the Nazi commander, expected success and in anticipation Hitler had prepared invasion barges at Bremen. But I see in my notes taken at the time that a terrific storm in the channel and North Sea blew away those invasion barges. The result was that the invasion of Britain was postponed. This was vital, for it gave Britain more time to manufacture armaments to re-equip our depleted forces.

### **Remarkable Guidance for the Fourth Day of Prayer**

#### **4. My diary records that the next National Day of Prayer was only six months later. It was called by King and parliament for March 23rd, 1941. The guidance of God must have been evident, for we did not know at the time that this was Hitler's next date for invading Britain.**

I have before me Hitler's plan of invasion, which was discovered after the war and published in the national newspapers.

My notes record the following events, which followed the fourth National Day of Prayer:

1. A great earthquake created waves with terrific gales which blew Nazi ships 80 miles off course.
2. That same week, Yugoslavia which had surrendered to Hitler changed its mind and organised resistance.
3. Ethiopia was liberated from Mussolini, Hitler's co-partner.

4. The British Navy fought the Italian fleet in the Mediterranean. Italy lost many cruisers and destroyers and their newest battleship was badly damaged. There was no damage to the British Navy, and no men were lost.
5. The Ethiopian ports were liberated. Haile Selassie, Ethiopia's Christian Emperor, said when no help was coming, 'Then I put my cause into God's hands'.
6. Hitler changed his plans entirely as a result of the submarine earthquake. He gave up invading Britain, and against all the advice of his generals, he turned his attention eastwards to invade Russia.

This was a turning point in the war. We learned later that Hitler had put off the invasion of Britain four times. A full account was given by Mr Attlee in 1946 as reported in the Daily Telegraph:

This Operation Seelowe (sea lion) was based on a landing of two armies with 25 divisions in all between Folkestone and Worthing. Ten divisions were to go ashore on the first four days to form the initial bridgehead. The preparatory phase, an air offensive was to have begun on August 13th, but the Germans decided that the actual invasion could not take place until September 15th. D-Day was eventually put off until September 21st. Altogether, Hitler postponed the plan four times between September 1940 and the Spring of 1942, after which 'it did not seem to be seriously considered again'.

#### **Significant Events after the Fifth National Day of Prayer**

5. **The fifth National Day of Prayer was on September 3rd, 1942. It was the third anniversary of the outbreak of war. The very next day at Palermo in the Mediterranean, the whole Italian fleet was sunk. Very significantly, the next month in the North African desert, the Eighth Army under General Montgomery saved Egypt (and therefore Israel) from being invaded by Hitler's powerful tank commander Rommel.**

#### **Italy Surrenders, Mussolini Murdered**

6. **The sixth National Day of Prayer was held on September 3rd, 1943. It was a weekday, chosen at the time because it was the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war. Italy surrendered to the allies that very night, and the dictator Mussolini was murdered.**

It was Mussolini who had invaded Abyssinia (Ethiopia). Emperor Haile Selassie's prayer had been answered. The Ethiopians were liberated, and Haile Selassie became a popular speaker saying, 'I glory in the Bible'.

#### **Military Leaders Testify To God's Help**

7. **In the spring of 1944, the seventh and last Day of Prayer was called by the King.**

The launching of D-Day was delayed several times by the Supreme Commander G. Eisenhower owing to the terrible weather. At last Eisenhower had to make a final decision or miss it altogether, so on June 5th the Allied Forces launched out across the Channel. Eisenhower reported later:

If there was nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an Almighty and Merciful God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it. The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed. You may say to me 'The nation prayed on this last National Day of Prayer but what did the Army do about it?' All officers were called to church services, and all ranks came to pledge themselves to God. 'But how deep did this go,' you may ask, 'knowing the varied types of characters?'

I can only quote to you part of the address given by the deputy chaplain-general. He did not merely urge religion. He urged faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The actual services of dedication were held on the eve of D-Day: The deputy chaplain-general was Canon Llewellyn

With a Prayer on Our Lips... supporting the King's call to prayer during WW2 – Source Daily Express, 1944

**With a  
Prayer on  
Our Lips . . .**

**A READER HAS SENT US THE FOLLOWING REMINDER OF THE DAY OF NATIONAL PRAYER IN THE CRISES OF 1918:—**

In 1916 Admiral Beatty wrote: "England still remains to be taken out of the stupor of self-satisfaction and complacency into which her great and flourishing condition has steeped her; and until she can be stirred out of this condition and until religious revival takes place at home just so long will the war continue.

"When she can look out on the future with humbler eyes and a prayer on her lips, then we can begin to count the days towards the end."

Beatty's words were literally fulfilled. The spring of 1918 called forth Haig's "Back to the Wall" order. The National Day of Prayer was held on August 4 (the only one during the war). By November 11 Germany was defeated and the Armistice was signed.

So let us to-day pray, as His Majesty asks, in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Hughes. He said:

*It is not enough for an army or a nation to have a vague faith in God. It is not enough for us to rest content that our commanders are godly, and that God's flag is publicly flown. Faith in God is useless until it governs action. What does God want done? We believe in God - as what? As a nonentity, content to be recognised, and then ignored? As a vague power, meaningless, purposeless, inarticulate, and therefore unfit to command a platoon, let alone a world? No. We believe in God who wants, and means to have done, all that Christ embodied, taught, lived out. Let an army and a people learn what God stands for, and then they will know when they are for or against His purpose, and support or oppose with confidence as His commissioned servants. That is where the solid toil of consecration comes in. The character of Christ must be known; His goodness perceived and loved; Himself accepted as Master. No special effort thrown off in an emergency will accomplish that; and there is no short cut.*

So the chaplains are going forward with the forces preaching the simple Gospel of Christ, the Author and Finisher of all the fine qualities of men.

There is no ideal of character better than the one God sent to us again in Jesus Christ our Lord. Read the New Testament.

This is typical of the spiritual leadership given by officers and commanders of the armed forces.

My memory of that seventh National Day of Prayer is that the nation did not turn out for prayer in the same overwhelming numbers as on previous occasions. What was the reason? Was it that the fear of defeat had vanished? If so it would be typical of human nature, unfortunately.

Earlier in the war, everybody understood the hopelessness of our situation and fled to God for deliverance. Even newspapers had given tips on how to pray.

## **The Second World War Miracles Part 3**

### **The Miracle of Malta**

General Sir William Dobbie, the hero of Malta, gives some personal insights into the real faith of many top military authorities. Malta was under siege, and seemed unlikely to survive. General Dobbie wrote:

At about this time, I was greatly encouraged by a telegram I received from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir Edmond Ironside (later, Field Marshall). The telegram, which was addressed to me personally, contained the reference Deuteronomy chapter 3, verse 22. I looked up the reference in my Bible, and I read: 'You shall not fear them, for the Lord your God, he shall fight for you.' God certainly did so that the outcome was popularly called 'The Miracle of Malta'.

I bought General Dobbie's book, *A Very Present Help* (Marshall, 1944), as soon as it was published because I had met him two years earlier when he told the remarkable deliverance of Malta. The visit was reported at the time in the *Dorset Daily Echo* as follows:

General Sir William Dobbie's visit to Dorchester on Wednesday can be placed without qualification in the category of memorable events. It brought about a unique mobilisation of religious leaders of the town, sounded the highest notes of spirituality and left scores of Dorchester people feeling better for having met one of the outstanding personalities of the war. He brought into the crowded hall some of the rock-like attributes of Malta itself, and it would be true to say that the majority of the audience were more deeply moved by his simple unaffected confession of faith, than by the story, even, of the Island's defence, glorious as it was ... In addition to the dignitaries already named as present, our thanks are due to Mrs Victor Pearce for her solo, 'I know that my redeemer liveth'.

### **Four Days to Save HMS Illustrious**

One of General Dobbie's reports was on how the new aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious was saved: In January 1941, a convoy was brought to Malta. It was escorted by a considerable portion of the Mediterranean Fleet, and in the escort was a new aircraft carrier, HMS Illustrious, a magnificent and very valuable ship. The German Luftwaffe had recently come to Sicily in considerable strength, in order to reduce our offensive activities at Malta. They attacked the Illustrious. In spite of heavy losses by the Germans they pressed the attack and obtained a number of hits causing severe damage. That evening after dark Illustrious limped into Malta and made fast alongside the dockyard. When they saw that Illustrious was in the dockyard, the German air force came over Malta and persisted relentlessly to bomb the ship. She received several more hits, and near misses caused underwater damage. The situation was very serious, and the chances of saving the ship were very small. However, the dockyard authorities said that if there was no further damage for four days it might be possible to get the ship to sea.

General Dobbie bade many people in Malta to join him in prayer. The attacks started again the next day, but strangely all the bombs missed! Why was that? It was the same for the next three days. They all missed! Apparently, the Germans had changed tactics and bombed from a much greater height, and missed every time, and Illustrious sailed out safely.

Other similar instances were described by General Dobbie, but a very significant statement was made concerning difficulties in the terrible First World War, and about the delay for D-Day in the Second War. It emphasises my remark that the nation did not turn out in the same way on the seventh Day of Prayer as they did when Britain was in peril.

## **The Sinking of the Bismarck**

The following extract appeared in the Daily Sketch on April 9th, 1946 concerning the testimony of the importance of prayer by the Vice-Admiral of the Fleet, at the time of the sinking of the Bismarck on May 27th, 1941.

When the Bismarck was hamstrung by our torpedoes in mid-Atlantic, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Tovey [then Vice-Admiral Sir John Tovey] knew he could bring her back into action next day at his convenience. 'But although she was damaged, her guns and instruments were in perfect condition,' he said. 'Although I was going to bring her into action with the King George V and Rodney, if you had asked any informed person what the result would be, he would have said, "You'll sink the Bismarck but one or both of your ships will be mauled."

'THAT EVENING I WENT DOWN TO MY CABIN AND SAID A PRAYER ON MY KNEES. WHEN I HAD SAID IT I KNEW EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. I took those ships in to attack the biggest battleship in the world, far bigger than my two ... I closed in to 3,000 yards - and the Bismarck never scored a hit on either of my ships. I have no doubt of the explanation of it.'

Lord Tovey told the story at the parish hall of the Church of the High Seas, St Dunstan's, Stepney Green, where he handed over to the rector the flag he flew in the action.

The capital letters above are as printed in the Daily Sketch. According to Everyman's Encyclopaedia, 1978, 'The action was a triumph of co-ordinated movement'.

## **The Miracle of the Fog**

General Morgan referred to other miracles great or local which others reported. Here is one concerning a platoon in the American General Patton's Third Army. It is from a soldier's letter to his mother, who lived in Pleasantville, New Jersey. His name was Joel; he was six foot four inches and weighed 215 lb. Facing the enemy in Luxembourg, he braved everything they could fire at him and his platoon.

He and the fifty men of his platoon were in real danger. They were working in observation lines, and in a few patrols.

- One of my best friends, Tom, with his whole platoon were pinned down by mortar and artillery fire. They were given the order to move but they couldn't because the enemy had full view of them from a hill and were zeroing their fire on them accurately. Tom is the most conscientious Christian boy I have ever met in the services. He knew something had to be done to save the fifty men. He crawled from his foxhole and looked things over. Seeing the hopelessness of the situation, he laid down behind a tree and prayed earnestly for God to help him. This is true mother . . . after he prayed a mist or fog rolled down between the two hills, and the whole platoon got out of their foxholes and escaped. They reorganized in a little town behind the lines where there was a church building. They all went in and knelt down to pray and thank the Lord, and then they asked Tom to take the service. This is true mother, and it just shows how much prayer can mean. If that was not an answer to prayer, I don't know what is. You can bet Tom is respected by his buddies.

The mother reported that both Joel and Tom had an experience with the Lord - that's when they received his salvation and came to know him personally.

## The Second World War Miracles Part 4

### The Impact Of Public Prayer And Faith Of Leaders

In the 1914-18 war the ding-dong struggle went on backwards and forwards. People have said, 'It seems as though God was withholding success from us, yet keeping us from disaster.' Until, that is, an official government move to authorise the National Day of Prayer. The churches were praying all the time of course, but God was waiting for a national commitment. It was not until July 1st, 1918, that a decision was taken by the Government to issue such a call. Immediately that decision was taken, a remarkable change came over the situation . . . there was a series of brilliant victories which led up to the Armistice.

It might be asked, 'Did Germany not have any official prayers?'

The answer is that they did not. Moreover, Hitler contradicted Christ's words. He said, 'Jesus taught love your enemies as yourself and be kind to those who insult you. But I say, hate your enemies and destroy them. Let the German Master-Race dominate!'

He was following the teaching of Nietzsche, the demented son of a Lutheran pastor, and none of Hitler's youth movement was allowed to be a Christian.

It was very different with Dobbie and with others like him. As the Dorset Daily Echo reported, 'He made a confession of faith' as they called it:

At the age of fourteen years I came to know Jesus Christ, before that I only knew him in my head, but at half-term holiday at Blackheath ... I then and there accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour, on the grounds that he had settled my debt of sin once and for all, and that therefore I went free. Having taken that step, my first reaction was one of intense relief. The heavy burden was lifted for good and all. I could face the past, present and future with confidence.

What is very significant was the eagerness of the commanders-in-chief of all the three military services that all ranks should possess and read The New Testament. At the back of that little khaki Testament each commander-in-chief of the Navy, Army and Air Force had added his signature to the words: 'We commend the Gospel of Christ our Saviour to every member of His Majesty's Forces.'

One of many stories told tells of a dying soldier. He lay face down and under his hand lay an open khaki New Testament. His finger was stuck to the page and the print came off as they lifted him up. He was buried with these words to which he had been pointing, transferred to his finger:

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, although he were dead, yet shall he live.'

Lt General Sir Frederick Morgan was head of the British and American Planning Staff that made plans for the invasion, that led to the surrender of Nazi Germany. He wrote two years after the surrender and end of hostilities. 'Miracles happen still,' he wrote. 'How many of them have we not seen enacted before our eyes in these past few years?' Then he lists a few and adds others:

1. There was Dunkirk and its flat calm sea. Who planned that? We saw no way out barring a miracle. Then came the miracle.
2. Two years later, the British and American military convoy was sailing in order to land in North Africa. All the enemy submarines were on the lookout. A breathtaking moment was when a U-boat caught

sight of the tall ship of one convoy, the rest being obscured by a squall that seemed to be travelling with our ships and providing cover. The Nazi observer thought that what he saw was merely worthy of routine report.

3. Then just as General Patton was due to land on the Casablanca beaches, open to the full Atlantic swell, just as it seemed inevitable that the whole affair must be called off, the wind changed from on-shore to offshore and let the small craft in successfully. There was surely more than human planning here too!
4. The history of other theatres of war tell many similar happenings, but I doubt if any will compare with the miracle of D-Day in 1944.

He goes on to explain that had that been delayed, the enemy could have held up operations in time to perfect secret weapons which we now know were in the making. General Morgan ends by asking to whom do we owe these miracles?

### **Prayer and the Angels**

What goes on behind the scenes concerning prayers in wartime and the angels? There are a number of passages in the Bible, which indicate that behind the earthly conflicts there exists a conflict between spiritual powers of good and evil, and earnest prayer can influence the outcome which becomes reflected on earth.

The prophecies of Daniel reveal some of what goes on. The relationship between prayer and the angelic powers is partly revealed in that mystical chapter ten of the book of Daniel. Here it is in verse four:

'Then one day early in April,' Daniel says, 'as I was standing by, before me stood a person robed in linen garments, with a belt of purest gold around his waist. His skin had a lustrous glow, and from his face came blinding flashes like lightning.'