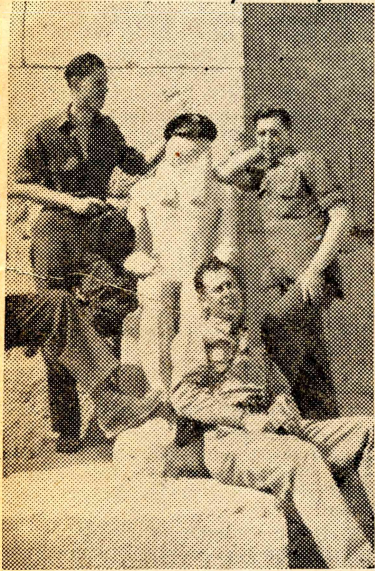


Harrison Brown Tells of Easter Services in Egypt

May 4, 1944



Believes Boys Will Want To Attend Church When They Come Home

Harrison Brown, Jasper county school teacher, who is now serving as a military police in the U. S. Army somewhere in Egypt, took time out on Easter Sunday to write the editor of the Mentor-Democrat and soliloquize a bit on the importance of going to church. We have no idea that Harrison meant anything personal in his admonitions.

The accompanying snapshot that seems to have been made at the base of some ancient Egyptian shrine is described on the back as having been taken on March 4, 1944. The man who is cut off at the left is Lucas, the next one standing is Ane, and of course the one reclining against the statue is Harrison himself who in Harrison's own words is "Boy, am I tired."

Harrison gives a vivid description of the Easter services which he attended and he believes boys in service who were lax in their church attendance before will be confirmed church-goers when they return to civilian life.

His interesting letter, in full, follows:

Just another G. I. in Egypt.

April 9, 1944

Dear Friend Page:

Today was another Easter for the boys of the middle East. Many of them attended church services this morning. Some of the more fortunate ones, who were of that religion which is more prominent in Palestine, were given a three-day furlough for the purpose of worshipping. I worked till eight this morning and then went to the American Chapel. Officers and enlisted men filled the Chapel. This is one place

that is not out of bounds to either. Newlight, Campbellite, Methodist, Baptist, and all the others were there worshipping the same God.

The chaplain gave the old old story of the crucifixion and the resurrection, together with the history of the Christian Persecution throughout the ages. His story, although old, was given in a very interesting manner. The speaker was so intent upon his subject that a pin could be heard to drop at any time. There was a complete silence over the group and in each man's heart there lingered an unspoken prayer, which showed in their faces.

The Christian Endeavor had a group of eight girls to sing and although I could not understand the words, the tune was very pretty. And they had perfect harmony. To add to this scene the pipe organist played some very beautiful tunes. All of this helped a soldier to remember that there are still people who are civilized and believe in living that kind of life. The service ended by singing the doxology

You know it is a queer thing, all those men who used to have a Sunday headache back home, have lost them and you will find them at a church every Sunday morning. A friend of mine told me his wife always wanted him to go to church, but for some reason he always had something else that had to be done, so he never became interested in the church. Since he has started to go here he really likes to go and he does not think his wife will have any more trouble getting him to church when he gets home. I guess there are a lot of fellows like him.

Walking home from church I saw some very beautifully decorated store windows, some of the most beautiful I have ever seen. Most of them very elaborate pastry and candy decorations. Also some very beautiful Easter baskets and rabbits.

Well this is the end of my first Easter Sunday in this land of bondage and believe some of these Egyptians are still in bondage. I sincerely hope you had a splendid day back in good old Jasper. I am sure the churches were well attended. Although we boys were not there in person we were sharing the same spiritual privilege with all of you. I am sure it is God's will that many will be back to share with you this service in person next year. So until then "KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING", and we will bring back that silver lining. My Best wishes to all.

Harrison

(Better known in Egypt as "Parsons")