

Dr. Daniel H. Smith Is Safe in Paris Now

Former Newton Man, a Famous European Dentist, Is Now Alive and Well in Paris, France

After a lapse of more than a year, Ralph L. Smith, president and treasurer of the Smith Music Shoppe at Danville, has just received direct word that his brother, Dr. Daniel Hally Smith, famous European dental surgeon, is alive and well and is still in Paris, France, having lived through the German occupation of France.

The welcome news of his brother's safety came in a letter from the secretary of the dental clinic with which Dr. Smith has long been associated, to Mrs. Berkeley Smith, his wife, who with their daughter, Suzanne, lives in New York City. The wife and daughter were sent to the United States only a few months before the Germans took Paris in June, 1940.

A Native of Newton

Born at Newton, a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Smith, Dr. Smith studied dentistry at Northwestern university, graduating in 1903. After practicing his profession a few years in Chicago, he went to Paris in 1907 to study at Paris University.

Mr. Smith received one letter from his brother about a year ago, which had been smuggled through to Spain and then dispatched to this country. Correspondence ceased at that time, although Ralph Smith had continued to write occasionally in hope that some of his letters would get through.

Ralph heard indirectly that his brother had been twice interned during the occupation of France by the Germans, but obtained his release each time because of his service to mankind. However, a nurse from the dispensary is still in an internment camp, according to the letter received by Dr. Smith's wife, and was in a camp near where the Allied armies are now battling the Germans.

Family Fled Ahead of War

It was in February, 1940, that Dr. Smith placed his wife and daughter on the train at Paris to proceed to the coast and embark for the United States. The war clouds were hovering over Europe at that time, Germany invading Norway and Denmark on April 9, 1940. They little knew then that it would be years before they would be reunited.

Dr. Smith, who is still a citizen of the United States, was a member of the five-member board of managers of the American hospital in Paris before the war, the name being changed to the French hospital after German occupation. He was the only dentist on the board. His clients consisted principally of members of the royal families of Europe and he had a wide acquaintance among royalty. He was a personal friend of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, who was assassinated on October 9, 1934, in Marseilles, France. It was a well known fact that Dr. Smith was the only foreigner ever invited to the king's palace and the only foreigner permitted to ride in the king's private automobile.

Personal Friend of Selassie

He also is a personal friend of Emperor Heile Selassie of Ethiopia and before the emperor was deposed by the Italians in 1935 Dr. Smith frequently spent weeks at a time at the emperor's palace. Selassie again became ruler of Ethiopia in 1941, after British and Imperial troops drove out the Italians.

Dr. Smith was president of the American Dental Society of Continental Europe for twelve years before the last war and was awarded the Legion of Honor by five European countries because of what he had done for mankind. These countries were France, Yugoslavia, Montenegro, Spain and Germany.

Mr. Smith visited Dr. Smith in Paris in 1912 and 1913, before the first World war. Ralph is a veteran of the first World war and first went to Danville in 1916 with the Cable Piano Company. After the war he returned there with the same company, opening his present business in 1928. Incidentally, he is the only one of four brothers in business. One brother, O. O. Smith, is a doctor in St. Louis, and another, W. C. Smith, is a dentist in that city.