

WWII TESTIMONY OF PILOT & ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNNER
Copeland TV Show, Sunday, October 21, 1990

I have a real good friend, A.C., a very close friend of mine, who was an American fighter pilot during World War II. One day he was on a "seek and destroy" mission. Actually, the mission of the squadron was over and they were all out, every man for himself. And on the way home they were to take "targets of opportunity." He was coming over the hill in a P-47 Thunderbolt. And boy, I mean he had the "ears laid back" on this thing, and he was just treetop high, just coming across, just daring anything to pop up in front of him.

A.C. said, "I came up over this little ol' hill, right outside of this little town there in Germany, and man alive, just as I popped up over this hill, I was looking right down the barrel of an anti-aircraft gun."

He said, "I didn't have time to do anything." He thought, "I'm at point blank range for this guy -- he can't miss! He said, "My first reaction -- I just jerked the trigger on my guns. Every gun I had jammed. I wanted to just close my eyes because I just knew I was a goner." But the anti-aircraft gunner never fired.

So the pilot flew back to base, landed and never thought anymore about it. (By the way, later on he tried his guns and they worked fine!)

Some years later he was on a Full Gospel Businessman's tour in Europe. They were just witnessing all over the place and he told this testimony of how God protected him that day. In the audience was a German who came to him afterwards, just bubbling over. The German asked him where the incident had occurred. A.C. told him and the German replied, "Man, that was me! I was sitting there on the seat of this anti-aircraft gun, and all of a sudden a P-47 came up over the hill there, and I thought, 'My God, he can't miss; I'm dead.'" He continued, "I stomped down on the trigger of that anti-aircraft gun, and the thing wouldn't fire. Man, I couldn't figure out why you didn't shoot. You had us dead to rights, right there."

The American said, "I did shoot but nothing would shoot."

They discovered that the American pilot's family was at home praying for him and the German's family was at home praying for him. The whole bunch on both sides were a bunch of Holy Ghost folks!

That happened all over the place during World War II. Even though God is not the author of war, he can use it and bring good out of it.

The man that led the Japanese 1st Fighter Squadron that attacked Pearl Harbor was born again and baptized in the Holy Ghost off a tract somebody gave him right after the war in Japan.