

*The following is from the St. Paul Christian Church newsletter, December 2016, written by Gladys Pike:*

### **St. Paul Remembers World War II**

This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II, Dec. 7, 1941. When the Japanese bombed the American Navy at Pearl Harbor, it pushed us into a war with Japan and Germany.

St. Paul boys had answered the call to arms before. There are twenty five Civil War stones in the Paul Hill Cemetery.

Two Dilt brothers were killed in the Spanish American War. Edward Meltzer was killed in the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900.

World War I took John Barnes in France, Harrison Wiley, Jay Simpson and Pleasant Dennison died of Spanish flu at training camps in England.

World War II took a heavy toll. Robert Miers, nephew of Grace Scripture was killed in France. Thomas & Minnie Wiley's boy Merle was killed in Burma. Frances Wise, son of John & Rose was killed at Okinawa. Franklin Avery was killed in Hamm, Germany 1945. Korea took Billy Darby 1950. For a small town that was a heavy loss.

I grew up in Fairland, a small town just like St. Paul, built along the railroad. I was six years old when the war ended, so I don't remember much. I do remember the church bells ringing and women calling from backyard to backyard, that the war was over.

My mother's five brothers were in the war. I know how she must have worried. At thirteen years old, my mother became the mother of the family. Her mother died and left eight children. My mother was the oldest girl and became their mother. Three of her brothers said she was the only mother they remembered. All families have stories of the war years, but most are gone now, and we have no one to talk to about those years.

On the next page is a copy of a Christmas newsletter, put out several times a year during World War II. It was sent to all the St. Paul boys in the service, to keep up their spirits. The boys liked hearing about what was going on in St. Paul, especially the county basketball scores. Bob Mitchell and his Sunday school class put out the newsletter and it was called ANA-IDNI (get it?)

What about all those names of merchants? That sure brings back memories of by-gone years and what a busy town it was.

***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!***