

## Katy 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Spiritual Message #47

### NOT ALL WHO SERVED ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE OUR ENEMIES:

I can't help but wonder if some of those enemy soldiers did not want to be there any more than I wanted to be in Vietnam but they had to go. When I was in Vietnam some of the North Vietnamese soldiers who had defected over to our side were assigned to our platoons to help us know where IED's had been planted by the enemy. They knew because they helped plant them before they defected. Those men were called "KIT CARSON SCOUTS". I had one with my platoon. He told me he went into the army because they told him they would kill his family if he did not go. He had a wife and 2 children. He had been in the army 7 years since he last saw them. When he learned they killed his family anyway he defected. So I knew he did not want to go to war. He also told me his brother had also been forced to join and was still out there in the enemy group we were fighting. That made it pretty hard for me to continue to do what I had to do as an Infantry Platoon leader knowing his brother was one of "THOSE ENEMY SOLDIERS OUT THERE"

Because of those thoughts I placed the following thoughts on my Facebook page:

**Cordell Vail:** I guess I can't help but feel bad for the German boys at Normandy who died that day too. I am sure most of them did not want to be there any more than I wanted to be in Vietnam. But I am certain, like me, they were there because they had to be not by choice. I hope we remember that all the Germans were not Nazi's and many were just forced to fight. I am sure there were just as many Japanese men in the same situation. Let us remember all those who died for whatever cause if they were there because they had to be.

A friend of mine made the following reply:

**Brett Johnson:** Agreed to the point to recognize those that were caught up on the wrong side and who did not agree with what they were being forced to do.

I have family who fought on the German side. They hated everything about Hitler and his evil cause but at threat of their lives and of their family's lives they had to fight.

Some fought in their own way. Have you heard of the 3 LDS youth who fought a propaganda war against the German cause? The book is called 3 against Hitler.

Our good family friend was Karl Schnibbe, one of the 3 youth.

Our cousins ended up on the front lines on the German eastern front against the Russians.

Another cousin was stationed at a POW camp and he would sneak food and medicine to the allied troops as he could.

When the Americans were closing in a group of GI's gave him a letter describing his help to them and instructed him to surrender to the first Americans he could find and show them the note.

He did and after the war, they all along with Karl came to Salt Lake and started over!

Years ago I read a story in the Ensign about two American soldiers who were captured. They were both LDS. One had been shot in the head and was gravely ill. As they laid in the prison camp waiting to be processed in, the LDS soldier who had not been wounded asked the German soldier who was guarding them if he spoke English. He said he did. He then asked him if he knew of any of the German soldiers

who were members of the LDS church. The German soldier told them he was LDS. So he asked him if he would help him give his friend a priesthood blessing, which he did. I doubt there was much guarding needed after that. I have searched everywhere for that story but cannot find it now. But here is another story of an LDS man who was a German soldier if you would like to read his story:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2011/08/the-lord-was-always-there?lang=eng>

Brother Vail

Past spiritual messages can be found at:

<http://www.cordellvail.com/epistles/katyfirstward/>

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