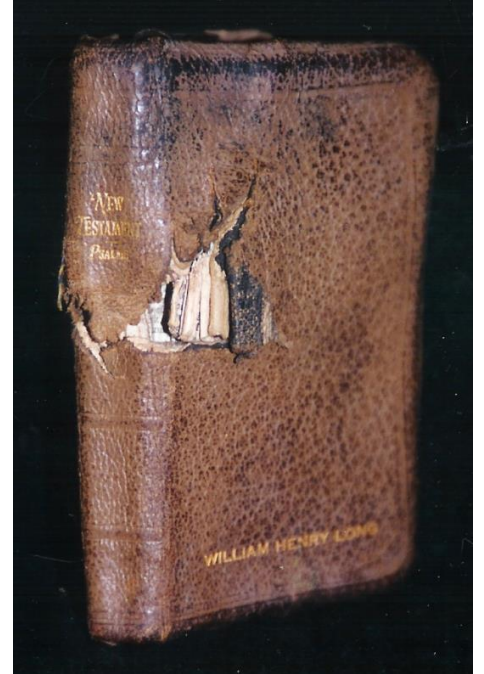


God's Protection

This weekend, we celebrate Veteran's Day – a holiday to honor the men and women who risked their lives for our country through their military service. They put the security of their country ahead of their own personal safety. Veteran's Day reminds me of this true story of Kernersville's own Doc Long.

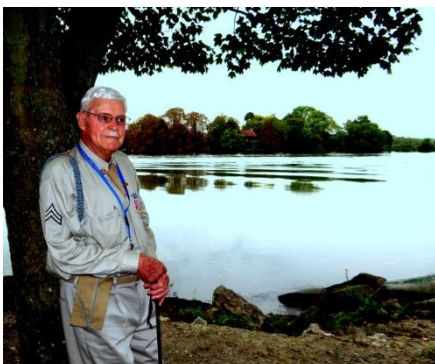
The date was November 13, 1944. The location was Ancerville, France, after the Americans entered World War II. William H. (Doc) Long was an Army foot soldier (315th Regiment, Company G) walking alongside a French tank when they were attacked by the Germans. A Nazi bazooka shell was directed towards the tank. As Long alerted the tank as to the origin of the shot, he was hit in the shoulder by gunfire. Long fell to the ground, rolling underneath the tank to avoid being run over by the treads of the tank. During the carnage, he was also hit in the left arm by shrapnel. Doc Long stayed motionless for the next 18 hours as other soldiers around him yelled for help. One by one, many of the soldiers around him gave in to their injuries, and there was an eerie silence. As the sun began to rise the next Day, and still surrounded by Nazis, Long kept his all-night prayer vigil. Any movement would alert the Nazis that an American was still alive.



As he lay motionless, Long continually silently repeated the 23rd Psalm as his words of encouragement. *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

As the Psalm says, His faith brought him comfort, even in the presence of his enemies. After 18 hours of pain, Doc Long was rescued and taken in for medical attention.

Without a doubt, God had kept Doc Long alive. Literally. Doc Long carried with him a pocket bible in a chest pocket. When he reached the medical tent, they discovered a piece of shrapnel was lodged in that pocket bible. If he didn't have the Word of God in that exact place, the shrapnel would have pierced his heart and ended his life.



The pocket bible had been given to him by his aunt when he first entered the service. She told him, "Please read this every day and keep it over your heart." He followed those instructions. Doc Long read it every day, kept its message on his heart, and carried that bible with him into battle.

The pocket bible literally saved Doc Long's life. Your bible can also save yours – not from a Nazi bullet, but from the dangers of everyday life. Read it faithfully every Day and keep its words in your heart. We face battles every day, yet we need fear no evil, for the Lord is with us. The bible provides God's

protection for the assaults that we face today. Danger is all around us, as the Nazis were on that road to Ancerville, in 1944. If you show signs of life, the devil will attack. Carry your bible in your heart as you live your life.

This Veteran's Day, honor those who risked their lives for a great cause. Veterans fought for the cause of freedom, and they continue to do that to this day. Jesus gave His life for us for the cause of our Salvation. Jesus offers us forgiveness of sins so that we can live in the House of the Lord forever. We live in a free country – thanks to the bravery of those who serve. We are free from the bondage of sin because of Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer: Say a prayer today, thanking Veterans who risked their lives so we could live in freedom. And thank our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, so we could be free from the wages of sin.

It was my pleasure to have Doc Long as a personal friend. He lived his faith every day, and is an inspiration to all who knew him.