

REGARDING CARNAL WARFARE

Brother Herman Redd of the Cold Springs congregation (Bogue Chitto, MS) tells me of an incident which occurred at an army base at Rockford, Illinois during the Second World War.

Brother Herman was standing, as were many other soldiers, outside his tent and beside his foot-locker. The foot-locker was open awaiting inspection by a group of officers who were to soon be directly in front of him.

Prior to their inspection, a lieutenant made a preliminary inspection. Seeing a Bible in plain view in the foot-locker, the lieutenant said to Brother Herman, "You better get rid of that."

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Brother John Matherson of Haleyville, Alabama relates to me an incident in which he was involved during the Second World War. Brother John was at the time engaged in battle at the front. General Patton came along and found Brother John covering a German soldier who was lying in a trench. The soldier's rifle was under him and he was attempting to remove it. It was noticed that the soldier was a youth of about eighteen. Brother John did not shoot the lad, but rather hesitated, perhaps desiring to take him captive.

At that moment there was a "click" of a pistol hammer just behind Brother John's head. General Patton's voice said something to the effect, "If you don't kill him, I'll kill you." The lad was then shot to death by Brother John.

General Paton has long since met his Maker, and Brother John continues to have troubled memories of this incident.

It is true that this is merely one of many sad tales of war, but the fact is that this is one of so very, very many which indicates that in carnal service one becomes servant to his commander, regardless of his own conscientious principles. One thus submitting himself to those in authority becomes merely a number and places himself in a position where he forfeits the exercise of his own will.

Circa 1982

Harry Cobb
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