Marine in Flames

A U.S. marine was preserved from death through the fire of the Holy Spirit. Today, brother Ken CANTRELL preaches the redemption of body and heart. The Holy Ghost Who surrounded his body saved his life through the fire!

"We were on our way to Italy faced with 40 knot winds when it happened. At that time JESUS’ power and His Holy Ghost (ACTS 1:8) were upon me so strongly, that this supernatural Holy-Ghost-Power kept me from being scared or from suffering injury or burning.

With terror I saw how all 15 men from my crew were burnt before my eyes. This happened on the 17th day of my fast.

My closest friend, Joe Carnes, from Louisville, Kentucky, sat directly next to me at the time of the explosion and began to burn in the flames. His burnt head was so small, comparable to that of a mummy; the other bodies were roasted like brown almonds as I watched them.

Flames surrounded my body for 35 minutes.

The explosion took place on the 7th of August, 1953, at 11.03 a.m., whilst the ship was near Gibraltar in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Lord showed me Luke 10:19. Nothing could harm me.

Daily, and from day to day, the "covering power" over my body grew stronger and stronger. I had the same experience as the 120 disciples in the upper chamber, in Acts 2:3: "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." These tongues of fire also sat upon me. Jesus said, in Luke 24:49, that this would happen.

The scripture in Psalm 118:17 also came to my mind: "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD." I later learnt, that it was the baptism of the Holy Ghost on my body, which preserved and saved me from death and destruction. This all happened before I experienced Acts 2:4.

Joe and Don were furthest away from the only door in the room. Don fell to the floor with Joe Carnes (from Louisville, Kentucky), whose flesh fell from his bones as I held him in my arms. Then I went to my other mate, Don
Hatcher. He was a dark-haired young man from Kansas City, Mo. He worked on the ship as a trained electrician. He supported me with the P.A. system. He screamed as he died in the flames. Although Don tried to get out of the deathly reach of the flames they continuously overcame him. The room measured 7.62m x 9.14m. Nobody could escape, myself included - Only God could help.

There was also another sailor to whom I was very close. He was a red-haired young man, Elbert Schaeffer, from Washington State. He was quick and always prepared to fight. He sometimes fought with the other guys, and he also fought a lot with me before I became a Christian. Although I told Elbert that Jesus would fight the fight for him, he didn't take any notice.

He even tried to fight the flames by thrashing wildly with his arms, but to no avail. Later, as I carried each one from the horrible house of death, you could not recognise any of them. The heads and torsos were burnt so far beyond any normal expectation, that you could not even recognise them as human beings."

Light - Miracle - A Coat of Power
Bill Harris, Portsmouth, Vermont, reported:

"I was stationed with Ken Cantrell on the U.S.S. Lake Champlain, and was one of many witnesses who saw how Cantrell went through the fire, picking up the dead bodies on which the flesh was so burnt that it fell from the bones. All 15 crewmen died in the fire.

I had watch duty from 8 p.m. until midnight in the part of the ship where Cantrell was living. It was approximately 11 p.m. on the 6th of August, 1953 - the night before the explosion. Cantrell didn't take part in any meals. I went over to him to say that it was high time to switch off the light. He said to me that he didn't have a light on. I just could not believe it. I went closer to the cabin in which he slept, and could hardly believe what I saw. I saw how light came out of Cantrell's body. I had read in the Bible about a man who was a Prophet, and that after fasting for 40 days, a light fell upon him.

I knew that it was this supernatural preserving fire of God that saved Cantrell from being burnt and injured when the flames came over him."

Translated from the German: "Marinesoldat in Flammen"