

Grace Vlam is a nine-year-old girl living in Holland in 1940 during World War II. Nazi Germany has just begun attacking Holland.

BOOM! BOOM!

It was three o'clock in the morning, and the city was being bombed. One minute Grace had been asleep in her bed, and the next, Dad was telling everyone to get under cover. Now Grace was huddled under the kitchen table with her dad, mom, and younger brothers,

Heber and Alvin. She could hear the rumble of

explosions and glass shattering outside. It was so loud!

"What's going to happen to us?" Grace asked Dad.

Dad stroked her hair. "I don't know," he said. "But let's say a prayer."

The Vlam family held each other close.

"Dear Heavenly Father," Dad prayed, "please keep our family safe."

After a while, the noise quieted down. There were no more explosions. They were safe!

Mom took Grace's hand and smiled at her.

"Remember when we were sealed in the temple?"

Grace nodded. When they had moved from Indonesia to Holland, they were able to stop in Utah and be sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

"Whatever happens, God will take care of our family," Mom said.

The next day, Grace heard air-raid sirens when she was outside on the city plaza. She looked up and saw planes above her head, with little black things falling from them. She stood there, staring, her mouth wide open.

A man started shouting at her. "Run! Those are bombs!"

Grace raced home, her heart pounding as she finally made it safely through the front door.

A few days later, the Nazis—who were the government leaders of Germany—officially took over Holland. Sometimes they took people who had been military officers as prisoners. Because Dad had been an officer in the Dutch military, the Nazi officers watched him carefully.

"But that won't happen to Dad," Grace thought. "We're members of the Church, and Dad is a leader in the mission presidency. God will protect him."

After the bombings, the Vlam family had to leave their city. One day at her new school, Grace heard other students whispering.

"Some people were taken prisoner today!"

"Will they ever come back?"

Grace was scared. Was Dad OK? She ran home as fast she could. As she burst through the door, she saw Mom in the hallway.

"Is it true?" Grace asked. "Is Dad gone?"

Mom didn't say anything, but Grace knew from Mom's sad eyes that Dad had been taken away. He was a prisoner of war. Grace leaned against the wall. She was too afraid to even cry.

"What do we do now?" she thought.

At that moment, Grace heard a voice say, "You will see your father again." The voice was calm and clear. Grace knew it was the voice of the Holy Ghost. It made her feel a little better.

She didn't know exactly what would happen, but she did know that Heavenly Father would take care of her and her family.

To be continued . . . ■

The author lives in New Jersey, USA.

A Voice of Peace

By Megan Armknecht
Based on a true story

ILLUSTRATIONS BY REBECCA SORGE



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