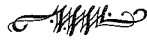


CHAPTER X

The War Years 1942–1945



The “dear Beach House” was not to be opened again until June 1945 when the war was over. Meanwhile, despite the world conflagration, some things were happening in Boston which elicited a positive reaction on Mr. Knapp’s part. In a letter to a student to whom he was particularly close he said (October 4, 1942):

Our numerous changes here at headquarters are all for our best interests, and I support them heartily, especially our new Director. I think next to that, I do rejoice over the editorials by our new editor in chief. Not since Frederick Dixon have we had such scintillating editorials. Old things have passed away; behold all things are become new, and I rejoice in the new order.

The new Director was Francis Lyster Jandron, Mr. Knapp’s student; the new editor in chief was Peter V. Ross, a long-time friend.

Probably because of the war and the restricted travel (“Is this trip necessary?”), Eloise went alone to her Association meeting in California. She was gone only three weeks, including travel time (October 15 to November 7), but during that time she helped Bella select an apartment and an office in Los Angeles, both on the same floor and in the same building, the Arcady, where Carlotta’s apartment was located. Now that

Jeanie and Paul were gone, the sisters desired to be nearer to each other, for business as well as family reasons.

Untoward events are scarce in the record of the Knapps' lives, and in the many hundred thousand miles that they traveled by automobile there was one sole collision. It happened just a few miles from home. On March 5, 1943, a mild day in what had been one of the coldest winters since 1870, the Knapps decided to drive to the beach for a lobster lunch. On the way back there was an accident in which the car was pretty well smashed up. "B.K. absolutely unhurt — and undisturbed!" wrote Eloise that evening, characteristically mentioning him first. "E. has a few bruises. We thank God for His protection of us!" Some indication of the extent of the damage to the car is the date of its return from the repair shop — April 22!

But 1943 was eventful in positive as well as negative ways. Actually, events occurred in such quick succession as to seem reflections of the great stir that was going on throughout the world.

First, there was the Knapps' silver wedding anniversary on March 27: "My sweetheart invites me to lunch at the Wayside Inn . . . Then we call on Sprague and Ralph — a happy peaceful day. My chum sends me an orchid and the Californians a box of oranges. E. gets two War Defense Bonds, one for each of us."

Then, on May 26, the first volume of the series *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, containing Mr. Knapp's "Impressions of our Leader," an address which he had given in The Mother Church Extension as part of the Annual Meeting in 1941, went on sale in the Reading Rooms in Boston.

Even more significantly, from the Knapps' point of view, the June 5, 1943, *Christian Science Sentinel* included a six-point statement by the Board of Directors describing the position of The Mother Church as to Mrs. Eddy's place in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. These six paragraphs Mr. Knapp called "masterful and most heartening"; Eloise called them "epoch-making!"

Three days later, as part of the Annual Meeting, Mr. Knapp presided over a Sunday School workshop, delivering a paper on "The Technique of Religious Teaching." This he incorporated in his Association address. He recommended, among other things, the use of the "case system" or method of teaching such difficult subjects as "Probation After Death." In this connection he recounted the instance of Mrs. Eddy's restoring Calvin Frye. He also made reference to a testimony in the *Sentinel* of August 2, 1941 (p. 962), in which a young Christian Scientist survived a torpedoing

and several days on a raft, with no food or water by resisting death and realizing the very presence of God:

When the Sunday School children begin to learn how a right idea can save them from disaster, how it is ever available, and how they can draw on it just as one might draw on a bank account, then they will be more eager to approach the study of these Bible Lessons in a practical way.

He also referred to Mrs. Eddy's technique of making arresting statements to her students. One gains an impression of Bliss Knapp as a Sunday School teacher himself in the following brief account:

. . . following Jesus' method, as reported in the last chapter of Luke's Gospel, I handed a Bible to each boy in the class and had him turn to the designated passages, as I read them and explained their application to our Leader. Those boys were astonished to find such passages in the Bible. In fact, they were so impressed that they remained after the session to get those references. Since I had nothing on paper, it took me some time to look them up again; and when we were finished, we were the only ones left in the Church.

The Association Day, July 3, drew 460 students; the day was a full one, ending at 5:15. Mr. Knapp's third paper presented in the afternoon, was an extraordinary reading of the "signs of the times" which began: "It is absolutely necessary to know just what is going on about us in order to think and act rightly." Even with the perspective of today, one finds his comments to be discerning. One example:

When the Atlantic Charter was published, it provided for four freedoms — freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. There is a fifth freedom which it failed to mention — the freedom of individual enterprise or self-determination. This fifth freedom is the basis of democracy. . . . Our first objective at the peace table is to restore true democracy. . . .

The peace table was two years away; the war had first to be won! It is matter of record that extraordinary events in the war seemed to coincide

with the dates of the Association meetings, or to happen in the wake of the meetings. As Mr. Knapp wrote to one of his correspondents on July 16, 1943:

It is true that I read a paper on "Action" on July 4th, a year ago; it is also true that my thought did turn to Rommel while I was reading it; and it is also true that is the date he was stopped by Gen. Montgomery.

What happened in the summer of 1943? On July 10, the Allies invaded Sicily. On July 19, the American Air Force bombed Rome. On July 25, Mussolini fell from power; and on September 8, Italy surrendered unconditionally.

The day before his class was to convene, July 20, Bliss received word that his brother, Ralph, passed on. Members of that class were unaware until later of Mr. Knapp's loss. The funeral service, on the twenty-third, was read by Mr. John Wilson, a Knapp student; Bliss, Sprague and Eloise saw to the details of interment in Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Anticipating the "signs of the times" in Boston, such items as the publication of *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy* and the statement of the Board in the June 5 *Sentinel*, Mr. Knapp had written in May to both the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of the Publishing Society, asking them to consider the publishing of his book, under the aegis of The Mother Church. Against such time as he would receive the expected response, he began revising the book *Ira Oscar Knapp and Flavia Stickney Knapp*. He worked intensively on the revision throughout the fall. Eloise's diary refers to the work from time to time: "Sept. 21-24 — Eunice Nettle types first 6 chapters of B.K.'s Book revised. . . ." "Oct. 9, 1943 — while B.K. is rewriting his Book, he said to Eloise perfectly spontaneously, 'My affection for you is unbounded.'" "Nov. 17-23 — Heidi [Holbrook] here to type second copy of B.K.'s revised Book." And finally:

November 23, 1943 — Revision of B.K.'s Book, now named "The Destiny of The Mother Church" finished: XIV Chapters, 185 pages. The Best Copy is placed this date in our safe deposit box in The New England Trust Co., 99 Newbury St., Boston . . . We thank God that *this great work is finished!* "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: . . ." Proverbs 13:19!

“Things of good report” continued to develop. In the Metaphysical College for 1943 (December 1 to 7) were registered two of Mr. Knapp’s students, Miss Margaret Crawford and Dr. Joseph Craigen. A member of Miss Bradshaw’s Association, Mr. Floyd Shank, was also in this Normal class. Mr. Shank and Dr. Craigen called on the Knapps immediately after the close of the College.

Throughout the months of November and December, Mr. Knapp continued to write. He dictated to Eloise a paper on “Deep-rooted Faith” which she later typed for him. He also made further additions to the book.

Because the guest books for the war years are just as full as those for any other years, one wonders how the Knapps could continue to treat so many of their visitors to such fine lunches and dinners — for the menus are often included. For one thing, Mr. Knapp, as has been noted, had seen the war coming long before it manifested itself as a danger to America and, with his usual foresight and reference to Joseph’s economy in saving for the lean years, he recommended that his students lay up for themselves such necessary items as coal and foodstuffs. When rationing began, everyone had to declare his stock of canned goods, preserves and so forth, and this Eloise did. It was interesting how supply continued to pour in. For instance, in October their New Hampshire friends Helen and Alcott Elwell brought five large cans (6 lbs. each) of corned beef, part of the supply which a summer camp had bought before rationing in 1942. Several days later John and Leah Wilson brought a bushel basket of yams, a gift of Miss Frances White of Norfolk, Virginia. It was discovered during these years of austerity — or rediscovered and put into practice — that eggs could be kept fresh by immersing them in a chemical called waterglass. In March 1944, Sprague called one day with almost 12 dozen eggs so preserved; Eloise noted that she used them over a period of six months, July 1 to January 1. Having been let in on such a secret, Eloise could not refrain from experimenting. She records for April 5, 1944: “E. ‘puts down in waterglass’ 10 doz. eggs in crock and 1½ dozen in glass jars.”

It is remarkable for people so mobile as the Knapps that from November 7, 1942, to January 26, 1944 — over a year — they did not spend one night away from their Chatham Street home. Their guests came in such streams, however, that it was with a sense of release that they “escaped” for the last five days of January to the Providence (R.I.) Biltmore for a “lovely rest.” Eloise spent part of the time visiting art exhibits, one of which, the Pendleton collection of colonial furniture in the Art Museum,

she particularly enjoyed. She also found the campus of Brown University interesting. Eloise loved to be “impressed”; she was always entertained by wonders and phenomena. In mid-February she took a friend to Burton Holmes’ lecture on Mexico and its new volcano which “began to erupt out of a level farm on February 20, 1943. This February it is 1800 ft. high and still erupting and growing!!” She rejoiced also in the beauties that the natural cycle of the seasons brought. May 14, 1944, was a perfect Mother’s Day; the trees were in full new leaf; “our wistaria out — all flowering shrubs and trees in bloom. Our lilacs, bleeding hearts and tulips all out in glory!”

Frequently in his correspondence, Bliss Knapp referred to his own experience by way of helping his addressee. Such references help to round out our picture of the man:

When I was a boy, I was frequently getting hurt in various ways, mostly with sharp tools. Accidents seemed to pursue me, until I learned how to be cautious, and then how to pray. Daily prayer for one’s self is to safeguard ourselves at all times. Daily to restore our spiritual sense is to make us secure in the “conscious, constant capacity to understand God,” as Mrs. Eddy tells us. (April 1, 1944)

And then he made reference to an occurrence which he explained in more detail in another, later letter:

I used to travel about forty thousand miles a year, while on the lecture work, and I never carried accident insurance. I always relied on my intuitions to warn me of approaching danger, and then handled the thing in Christian Science.

While motoring in northern California, the chauffeur suddenly realized that the cloud of dust in the road directly ahead of us was a herd of cattle. Rather than drive right into them, he turned the car suddenly into the ditch that paralleled the road. I was sitting on the front seat, and the window was down, and I immediately stuck my head out of the window. The driver and the other two passengers were badly hurt, but I wasn’t even scratched by the broken glass. I had such a feeling of the presence of divine law, that I shall never forget the sense of security I had. Moreover, I was able to heal

the others in a marvelous way. The chauffeur, who was not a Scientist, told me he had never witnessed the power of the divine presence to such a degree, and he had carried out my request to him that he get down on his knees and pray as he never did before, when he got ready for bed. It was proved that "His arm encircles me, and mine, and all!"

I had no time to pray, when I saw the impending accident, but my daily prayers for myself were instant in season. . . .
(September 8, 1944)

Apparently Mr. Knapp was often asked how he handled the belief of accident. In another reply to such a request he included this detailed account:

I used to tell in a lecture about an experience I had when an undergraduate in College. In the late autumn a drizzling rain encountered a freeze so that the streets, fences, and trees were covered with clear ice. It was beautiful to look at, but very treacherous. When [I] ventured out, just as I was crossing a driveway, the suggestion came to me of slipping and falling. Simultaneously there came a sharp twinge of pain in my shins, just as though [I] had fallen. But I never fell. Instantly came the explanation: the suggestion of falling named itself pain in the shins. It was all so mental that I met the pain very quickly. From that, I learned that alien suggestions knock for admission. When therefore a later suggestion turned my ankle, and the pain was so severe I was about to faint, I had just time to declare, "I am a law unto myself."

Just as instantly, I was perfectly free. That proved to me that the suggestion was alien to myself, and the instant I put up a barrier to its entrance, I was free. (October 11, 1944)

. . . All that I remember about my last visit to Ithaca is that I had a bad case of the flu and could scarcely get through the lecture. However, _____ and _____ [two of his future students] went there specially to size me up as a possible teacher, and both decided to come because they admired the way I won a victory right on the platform, where everyone understood perfectly the situation.
(May 13, 1944)

And to a student who wished to interview Mr. Knapp *before* an Association meeting, he replied that he would rather she remain over and try to see him afterwards:

The reason is this: so many have wanted interviews on Sunday afternoon and Monday that I have been limited to ten minute interviews on those days, and they extend from dawn to dark. About Tuesday, I begin to stretch the time to half an hour, and those who remain later can expect even more time, and that goes on to the end of the week. The objection to interviews before the meeting is that I desire to keep fresh and on the mount as best I can, and second, I find many questions would be answered by what I have to present at the meeting, and I don't like to anticipate that work unnecessarily. . . . (May 13, 1944)

Throughout the spring, Eloise worked on the papers she would read to the Association of Mrs. Harriet L. Betts, C.S.D. in Troy, New York, in September. She also substituted as a Sunday School teacher in The Mother Church. Other red-ink entries in the diary for this season included Bliss's attendance at the fiftieth reunion of his English High School class and the Annual Meeting of The Mother Church at which Adair Hickman and "dear Helen Chaffee Elwell" were announced to be the new Readers. The next day, June 6, was "D-Day": "'The Liberation' begins — Eisenhower lands troops on French shore between Cherbourg and Le Havre!" Wednesday, June 7, Bliss's birthday, turned out to be quite a day. At the Sunday School Panel in the afternoon, "The Two Witnesses brought out — named and acknowledged all through the meeting." The entry continues:

At Wednesday Meeting in the original Edifice of The Mother Church, Margaret Crawford presides. Bliss speaks of his Leader — tells of Judge Hanna's Vision Article which Judge Hanna wrote in 1898 — how the Judge had read that article to Bliss once in Pasadena, and also the correspondence between the Judge and Mrs. Eddy about it, and how emphatically she endorsed the truth of the article — and *told him he could publish it* — but the Woodbury suit against Mrs. Eddy made the publication of it unwise. Bliss read Mrs. Eddy's message to Mr. Kimball, to Judge Hanna and to

Mr. Miller (excerpts) about *herself* and how important it was for her followers and the world to “know the truth about your Leader.” He also pointed to the Window portraying the Woman of the Apocalypse and over it the Window portraying *Science and Health* — showing the connection between the two.

Elizabeth Earl Jones drives home with us after the meeting and stays until 11:30 p.m.

June 12—Douglas Conners brings to call on B.K. Benjamin N. Covington of Atlanta, Ga., who had a terrible — and wonderful experience in the jungles of New Georgia Island in taking Munda airfield from the Japs.

June 20—Margaret Crawford CSB to lunch and to say farewell. We give her Flavia Knapp’s 55th edition of S&H from Mrs. Eddy.*

Association Day (July 8), for the Knapp students in 1944, was the hottest ever; the mercury climbed to 98 degrees, although the Original Edifice remained comparatively cool. Mr. Knapp, unperturbed by temperature, read papers which included a couple of stories about Mary Baker Eddy:

Mrs. Eddy once required The Mother Church, and its branches, to observe Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. The Bible Lesson Committee prepared a special lesson for the day, and there was a brief eulogy by a competent speaker, who was usually a Congressman. Mrs. Eddy wanted to make it known that Christian Scientists can recognize the good in others, even when they are not Christian Scientists. However, she had to abolish the Lincoln Day service, because sectional differences blinded them to the recognition of goodness, unless it was properly tagged.

Once Mrs. Eddy was taking two guests to the railroad station, and her adopted son was driving the horses. They were still unaccustomed to the recently installed electric cars, and Mrs. Eddy

*Later, on July 20, Mr. Knapp wrote Miss Crawford a letter appreciative of her service as Second Reader in The Mother Church and of her becoming an authorized teacher of Christian Science. In her reply, Miss Crawford thanked Mr. Knapp for “the dear book you gave me. Often I hold it in my hand and feel overwhelmed at the preciousness of the gift, and wonder that you would be willing to part with it, and that you chose to give it to me. I prize it beyond telling.” (August 17, 1944)

asked Foster Eddy to avoid the street where the cars were operating. He rather flippantly remarked there was nothing to fear. At that, Mrs. Eddy insisted that he take another street, and he obeyed. One of those guests misinterpreted Mrs. Eddy's wariness for fear; so she asked Mrs. Eddy why she avoided the route of the electric cars. Mrs. Eddy replied, "I never answer the call of animal magnetism. 'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.' "

For a number of years Mr. Knapp had studied the plagues as lessons to teach the Israelites that the Egyptian gods were false and to free them from 430 years of bondage. Mr. Knapp's paper of 1944 was a comprehensive treatment of this subject and bespoke painstaking research and preparation.

Then came a paper uncovering the modern tangent of "heathenism" and sacrilegious teachings or babblings about God and His Christ.

Because of the difficulty of driving, even to Lynn or Swampscott, due to the rationing of gasoline, Mr. Knapp held his class, during the last week in July and the first in August, in the Studio in Longwood Towers, in Brookline, not far from the Knapp home. The excessive heat continued throughout this period. "No time to hold a class!" concluded Eloise. August was a busy month for Mr. Knapp who again substituted as First Reader in The Mother Church for two Wednesdays (16 and 23) and one Sunday. The regular Second Reader, who read with him, was, like himself, a student of Judge Hanna; this therefore was an especially gratifying experience. The soloist was Josephine Antoine, a Metropolitan Opera star and, as Eloise noted, "a good Scientist." Mr. Knapp's lesson for the second Wednesday service was "The Comforter and the Woman." He used his fee for substituting to take Eloise to Cape Cod for ten days; they stayed at East Bay Lodge in Osterville, not far from the summer cottage of one of his students, Elizabeth Smith, who had a picnic for them and several other Knapp students on September 2. The Knapps reciprocated by having Miss Smith and her guests, Mrs. Ruth Myers, her daughter, Elizabeth Harding, and Bob and Marion Curtiss, to dinner at the Lodge. Afterwards they walked to the Armstrong Gardens: "Lovely sunken Italian garden with tall twisted pink marble pillars set on a green lawn with a backing of ever-green trees!"

The night before they left for Troy, by train, for Eloise to address the Betts Association, a hurricane struck the Boston area; it did no damage to

the Brookline house but bent over two fine trees at Little's Point. The Knapps stayed at the Hendrick Hudson Hotel in Troy, and enjoyed the ride on the Boston and Maine Minute Man across the state of Massachusetts and through the Berkshires. A week later, on the twenty-fifth, they celebrated with Sprague and Gertie the latter's fiftieth wedding anniversary.

An insight into Mr. Knapp's first years in the practice of Christian Science is furnished by several letters which he wrote at this time. To a young man who was applying for class instruction in order to carry out his resolution to be a practitioner when he was released from military service, Mr. Knapp wrote:

. . . When I finished college, many friends advised me to have a business experience before becoming a Christian Science practitioner; but I looked at it this way: everyone has to work out his own salvation, either here or hereafter. Suppose he climbs the ladder of business, he must come down again in order to start climbing to the goal of salvation. Thus you see that, regardless of the number of different ladders you climb, whether in the navy or in business, you still have to go up the ladder of a Christian Science practitioner. Consequently, your judgment is perfectly sound and correct in your righteous decision. (July 20, 1944)

To a student who had taken the steps to become a registered practitioner, he wrote that her letter was "a rare jewel in my crown of rejoicing." Then he shared with her the following:

Mrs. Eddy refers in *Science and Health* to the fact that "Academics of the right sort are requisite." When I found that I had plenty of time for study, when I first entered the practice, I worked along the line of the first chapter of Genesis and the Beatitudes, recognizing the first to be deductive, and the second inductive, in presenting spiritual creation. My thought was arrested by Mrs. Eddy's statement, "The grass beneath our feet silently exclaims, 'The meek shall inherit the earth.'" From that statement I saw the relation which exists between the third day of creation and the third Beatitude. Then I arranged seven footsteps in logical sequence between meekness and dominion (dominion being my explanation of inheriting the earth). After that, I saw

how I could arrange seven footsteps in their ascending order for each of the first seven Beatitudes. When I sent the result of my study to Mrs. Eddy, she approved it as being the right kind of academic study. Perhaps you can do the same. (August 2, 1944)

Mr. and Mrs. Knapp, during the war period, wrote frequently to the students who were in the service and, particularly, when it was possible, to those who were serving overseas. One of these men, Edward A. Long, serving with the Navy in the Solomon Islands, sent the Knapps a native wooden club from Tulagi. When he came home for a thirty-day furlough in January 1944, the Knapps invited him to spend a day at their house reading the Association papers of the previous year, as he had been unable to attend the meeting. Another student sent them from an island in the South Pacific a fan which Mr. Knapp in his letter of thanks called "exquisite in design, color and workmanship, and gives us a new idea of the skill of the natives in those islands." In this same letter Mr. Knapp took as his text Mark 5:1-17, where Jesus healed the insane man who dwelt in the tombs. He endeavored to explain the "legionary" aspect of Shintoism: "Mrs. Knapp and I once visited a Shinto temple in Kioto, Japan, containing three hundred Shinto gods, row after row. Their legionary belief was that three hundred Shinto gods could break any opposition, just like the belief of the insane man whom Jesus healed." He pointed out that the Japanese belief (Hirohito's phase of insanity) was beginning to be self-seen and so self-destroyed. He also prophesied that "you can look for a crumbling of the Japanese opposition in a way you had not anticipated . . ." (August 21, 1944) To another student, an Air Force officer who had sent in an amazing testimony, Mrs. Knapp wrote her gratitude:

I want to tell you how thrilling your testimony was which Mr. K. read to the Association. Next month I am to address an Association in New York State, and I am planning to read to them your fine testimony — of course, without names. So you see what widespread good the story of your practical application of right thinking in the face of such difficulties, will do. . . .

Wherever you are, you are under the law of reflection and you cannot avoid reflecting all intelligence, all protection and all blessing. . . .

Mr. K. is right now substituting as First Reader in The M.C.

while Mr. Hickman is away teaching his class. His reading yesterday brought forth much appreciative comment, for he reads with a power and a deep underlying understanding which even the casual listener can feel; and the longtime workers are so grateful for it.

My prayers go more often to the French front than any other, for I feel it is so very important. I have just finished a biography of General Eisenhower, and I am deeply impressed with his fitness for the work in hand. He had been God-fearing from his boyhood, and I am sure he is being led aright. Our loving thoughts and wishes are with you at all times, and we know where your identity and individuality are always! (August 21, 1944)

October 1944 brought the funeral of an old friend, Rev. Irving C. Tomlinson (on the fourth), further composition by Mr. Knapp (an article on the three times God gave the Commandments to Moses), and Eloise's annual trip to California for her own Association meeting and a visit with her family. November brought an election-returns party hosted by Bliss in Eloise's absence (on the seventh); Eloise's laconic comment when she returned: "Good refreshments; poor returns — most for F.D.R.!" The guests were the Myers family, Heidi Holbrook, Mrs. Holbrook (Heidi's mother-in-law), Miss Dunham and Elizabeth Smith.

Eloise's return on November 18, after a month's absence, was a cause for thanksgiving on Bliss's part and it was probably at his insistence that for once they celebrate Thanksgiving Day differently. They left home in the car at 9:30 in the morning, drove to Foote's Cider Mill in Weston, then to the Wellesley Church for the Thanksgiving service, at which they both offered gratitude. They enjoyed a fine turkey dinner at the Wellesley Inn, after which they called on Sprague and Gertie. In the evening, at home, Eloise read aloud to Bliss a mystery story, *Charlie Chan Carries On*, by Earl Biggers! "A fine day — and both maids out with their families — a good custom to follow!"

It was at this time that the Knapps began to think of moving to a home that would require less care than that supplied by two maids and a gardener. On December 11, Eloise went out apartment-hunting, to Longwood Towers and the Hotel Statler. A month later, an apartment became available in Longwood Towers and the Knapps were quick to take it. The next thing was to put the Chatham Street house up for sale. As Eloise said, "This was a big milestone in our lives!"

Fortunate indeed were the guests who visited the Knapps in the next few months when they were anticipating the big move. Small items were easily disposed of: pictures, china (B.K.'s great-grandmother's set of "Flowing Blue"), antique Chinese vases, candlesticks and rugs. Larger items such as the piano and three bedroom sets of furniture were sold for a song — really just for the price of having them moved out of the house. Some pieces were transported to the Little's Point house. All of this represented immense planning and effort on Eloise's part — and interspersed with all came the steady flow of guests. On their anniversary day, March 27, Eloise paid five months' rent on the expiration of the previous tenant's lease, and 312-B Longwood Towers was theirs. They moved in, "bag and baggage and two maids" on April 18. The seventeen-room house on Chatham Street, their home for twenty-five years, was finally sold in October.

The violent drama of the nations was hastening to a close. In early February, General MacArthur marched into Manila, freeing the city and many prisoners. The war in Europe was plunging towards VE Day, May 8, when Germany's unconditional surrender brought the slaughter to an end in that sector of the world. A number of Mr. Knapp's students, who had been held prisoner by the Germans, were released and made their way home. Among these were Stanley Morse, Robert Mason, and Richard Leary, a major in the Air Force, whose wartime exploits would make a book in themselves. Major Leary, who had been seriously wounded when parachuting from his plane, had come down behind enemy lines, had helped a fellow flyer who had sustained a broken leg on landing, had survived almost unbelievable prison conditions, and had used his understanding of Christian Science to see him through — "to endure unto the end." Naturally, he was endlessly grateful for the instruction he had had in Mr. Knapp's class of 1943 — and ten days after VE Day he was in the Knapps' living room expressing that gratitude and telling them about how he had survived. On Wednesday evening, September 19, Major Leary gave his testimony in the Lynn church, where he had had class — with the Knapps in attendance. It seemed as though all those students who had seen war service made their way, as soon as they arrived back in this country, to the Knapps' new home in Longwood Towers.

July 7—Association. Cool and pleasant. 532 present — in spite of transportation difficulties due to war . . . Bliss dwelt on neces-

sity of keeping our spiritual sense clear; drop everything if you seem cloudy and keep your spiritual sense clear — and Love alone restores this. Beware of personality, “sham personality,” which results from “spirits and souls” — see S&H 466:7. The nations’ drama: Is Russia “the waster created to destroy”? (Isa. 54:16) Then let her do her work on the so-called church, the ecclesiastical beast; for when the ecclesiastical beast is destroyed, so also will be the *economic* and *political* beast! (EMK diary)

The Knapps had moved back to Little’s Point on June 12, for the first time since 1942 — and members of the Association visited them there again. How pleasant it was to sit on the porch looking out over the shingle beach to the endless blue of the ocean while exchanging metaphysical ideas with a teacher whose own course in Christian Science had been charted by the Leader herself! Such was the experience that many of the Knapp students recall and treasure. Once again there were swimming parties and picnics on the beach. Lobsters, fresh corn and peaches were featured items on the menus. These were happy occasions for the Knapps as well as their guests — and the happiness stemmed, in part, from an anticipation on the part of all that the war would soon be over.

Mrs. Knapp’s diary recalls the swiftness with which developments came in August of 1945:

August 6th—The President of the United States, President Truman, announces the advent of the Atomic Bomb, the most tremendous force yet known to man on earth — of earthly material power. It was dropped on Japan, one atom bomb, on August 5th. Its revolutionary powers on human experience stagger the imagination and usher in *a new era*. “The earth melted in fervent heat!”

August 8th—Russia declares war on Japan! Second atomic bomb dropped on Japan on Nagasaki.

August 10th—Japan offers to surrender *if* the Mikado is assured his full powers! The end of the war is in sight!

August 14th—At 7 p.m. President Truman announces the unconditional surrender of Japan to the Allies! Hurrah — and thank God! The greatest, bloodiest and costliest war in history . . . is finished! V.J. Day—September 2nd.

August 19th—Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving for victory over Japan — and so, World Peace.

On Sunday, September 2, VJ Day, the Knapps invited Mrs. Bertha Reynolds and her daughters Mary and Ada to dinner “because they were dining with us on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, when we heard over the radio the Jap sneak attack on Pearl Harbor — and we knew the war was on.” Now the war was over, it was fitting that they all give thanks together. This they did — and they talked also about Mr. Knapp’s book and the possibility of its being published.