

The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print, Isa 51:1

Collected by Dean Brown



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Spitfire Pilot, Roger Hall.

Sept 1940. What was the matter with me? Had I forgotten how to fly? ... I felt horribly shaken and I just flew around aimlessly for a while to try to regain some sort of self-confidence. I thanked God for many things. p. 83.

Sept. 1940. I was alone in the battle area for the first time. ... Suddenly I was aware and enormously conscious of the real significance of God in my life, and I was alone no longer. My immediate goal was to regain my altitude. p. 84.

Dec. 1941. I was resolved to get fit and well and to throw off the impending breakdown that was creeping up on me. I thanked God for the heaven-sent respite. p. 156.

Sept. 1942. My last operational flight. I returned to a Service Psychiatric Hospital. ... There existed no counterpart to our mode of life in any other sphere of human experience on earth ... All conspired to produce a loss of faith. Life and death were no longer the sacred things that once they were to me. p. 179. ...

1944. Death was a constant companion; paradoxically because of it life became much sweeter and one felt totally alive. ... Friends died, always the best, yet it didn't seem that they had gone far. ... There were many others in the hospital from all the three services and all suffered different experiences which produced much the same effect. It took many years to recover completely. ... Despite the physical treatments and the utter devotion of the doctors and nurses there remained one ingredient without which there existed little hope of recovery and that was the love of God ... The abiding truth is: "*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*" Sometimes this was obscured by "Clouds of Fear". p. 181.

Hall, *Spitfire Pilot*, 2013. Hall was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1942. He left the RAF in 1944 and lived into 2002.