In the PRLC Archives there is a box roughly 12 by 8 by 3 inches tall. On the top of the box is handwritten the following: “WWII Servicemen Letters.” Within the box is a slice of history! Original letters sent to servicemen-members of PRLC and received from the same. There is also a list of men – members of PRLC – who had enlisted and/or were drafted into service.

Records indicate that in 1945, 85 PRLC men served in WWII. Below are the names that appeared on a thin piece of typing paper, tucked neatly into the box. The information that follows the name is their birth and death date (if known), as well as their branch of service. If the name appears in italics, the serviceman was listed in the 1955 PRLC Directory. An asterisk (*) indicates that this serviceman sent a letter to the church and that letter is now in our archives.

**Leonard Warren Amberson** (1925-1999) Navy
**Marvin Oscar Bangsund** (1915-1995)
**Norman Alexander Bangsund** (1912-2000)
**Richard A. Bangsund** (1924-1994)
**Harold N. Berg**
**Alfred Berg**
**William Russell Brakken** (1923-2007) Navy
**Albert Ernest Brogen** (1919-2007)
**Halvor Einar Dahl** (1924-2007)
**Leo A. Deters** (1924-1995)
**P. Derkicson**
**Andrew Steinar Ekern** (1919-1959) CG
**Ben Espeland** (1911-1967)
**Colvin George Falk** (1925-2010)
**Samuel D. Ferguson** (1916-1998) Navy
**Duane R. Fods** (1924-1993)
**Carl Ludvig Foss** (1886-1976) Chaplain
**Carl Garrison**
**Donald C. Haroldson** (1922-1993)
**Morris Hendrickson** (1914-1977)
**Edwin J. Holm**
**John E. Holm** (1913-2003) Army
**Norman V. Holm** (1924-2003) Army
**Norman Hundwin** (1917-2009) CG
**James C. Jensen** (1913-1983) Army
**Ralph Norman Jensen**
**Rolf L. Jensen** (1919-1987)
**Howard W. Johnson**
**Palmer R. Johnson** (1921-1981) AF
**Walter J. Johnson**
**Hulton Justin Kravik** (1925-2008)
**Richard C. Kowstien**
**Bernt Larsgaard**
**George E. LaBree**
**Jack E. LaBree**
**Raymond C. Lewis** (1918-2001) Army

**Gerald Leroy Lider** (1922-2011) Navy
**Erling H. Lund** (1925-2000) Navy
**T. N. Lund**
**Arnold Theodore Madsen** (1915-2007)
**Harold Elmer Madsen** (1916-2003)
**Richard James Madsen** (1922-2008)
**Ernest Thomas Mathisen**
**Clayton M. Melby**
**Gordon Michelsen** (1911-1996)
**Norris Mitchell**
**Donald Mitchell** (1924-2008) MC
**Anker I. Molver** (1922-2011)
**Ralph T. Ness**
**Joseph M. Norby** (1921-2006) Navy
**Phillip S. Norby** (1916-1996)
**S. Nelson**
**Francis B. Nyland**
**Lyle M. Nyland** (1923-2001)
**Arvid Odde** (1923-1987)
**Alton G. Olson** (1923-1990)
**B. J. Qualheim**
**James Arligh Rost** (1932-2013)
**Robert E. Running**
**Bert Sellereite** (1917- ) Army
**James Albert Sevener** (1922-2005) Army
**Floyd W. Severson** (1910- ) Army
**Raymond L. Smith**
**Omar Stenssen**
**Harold Systad**
**K. O. Thompson**
**Leslie Jimmy Thompson** (1918- ) Army
**Charles C. Tuvey** (1919-1992)
**Kenneth Fundrid Ulrickson** (1918-2011) Army
**Logan Vermillion**
**Albert J. Walderhaug**
**Ronald W. Wendahl** (1925-1972)
Below is one example of a V-mail, short for Victory Mail, a hybrid mail process used during WWII in America as the primary method to correspond with soldiers stationed abroad. To reduce the cost of transferring an original letter through the military postal system, a V-mail letter would be censored, copied to film, and printed back to paper upon arrival at its destination.

This V-mail was sent Jan 24, 1945 to PRLC from Alton Olson, age 22.

A typewritten letter from Lieutenant Harold N. Berg, USS Silverbell (AN-51) – in the South Pacific – sent July 29, 1944:

A handwritten letter from Corporal Don L. Mitchell, USMC – sent December 28, 1944:

A handwritten letter from Radioman 3/c William Brakken, SS Cape Trinity – sent February 15, 1945:

**Correspondence from Servicemen**

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**Perspective**

On January 8, 1940, the congregation statistics were as follows:
- Baptized souls: 445
- Confirmed members: 356
- Voting members: 240
- (members over the age of 21)
- Baptized children: 89
  - (44 boys / 45 girls)

Sending letters and packages to servicemen, both members of PRLC and others, was a regular practice of Pastor Ofstedal and the congregation.

**Not all servicemen made it home safely. Sadly, two young men from the congregation were killed in action. Below are the articles that appeared in the Seattle Daily Times.**

**Erik Levald Jensen**
- May 28, 1916
- March 2, 1944
- Son of Peter & Carline

**Sergt. Jensen Dies in Anzio Beach Fighting**

Sergt. Erik Levald Jensen, 27 years old, was killed in action March 2, on the American-Italian Beachhead, according to a War Department telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Jensen, 6222 Palestine Ave. A member of the 35th Field Artillery with the famed 3rd Division, Jensen was with the first invasion force to enter Europe in 1944, and finally reached Italy after participating in the Sicilian campaign.

He was a graduate of Ballard High School, and for a time was a student at the University of Washington.

Jensen was first trained as a member of the National Guard in 1939, then was instructed in amphibious operations in California, and finally was sent overseas from Virginia. Surviving besides the parents are two brothers, Rolf, 26 years old, Army Air Forces in San Antonio, Tex., and Norman, a University of Washington student, and a sister, Miss Margaret Jensen, a Seattle school teacher.

**Turrell Arnold Benson**
- December 8, 1924
- December 9, 1944
- Son of T. O. Benson

**Sergt. Benson, Radio Man On B-17, Killed**

Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Benson, 502 N. 70th St., have received word that their son, Sergt. Turrell Benson, radio operator on the B-17 bomber, was killed in action over Germany December 8, one day after his 20th birthday anniversary.

Sergeant Benson joined the Army after his graduation from Lincoln High School and received his training at Camp Kearns, Utah, and Sioux Falls, S. D., and left for overseas last November.

Besides his parents, the flyer is survived by a sister, Myra, attending the University of Washington, and a younger brother, Boyd, a pupil at Lincoln High School.

Erik was a graduate of Ballard high school and Turrell from Lincoln HS.