

Henry

Betty Scott Stam

Memorial Service at Tungchow

Plaque Presented to N.C.A.S.

An impressive service held on Sunday, June 5 in connection with the Commencement exercises at N.C.A.S., Tungchow, was the presentation of a memorial plaque, by the Alumni Association, for Elizabeth Scott Stam, a former student, who, with her husband, John Stam, became a martyr at the hands of Communists in 1934.

Those who gathered in the School Chapel for this occasion were the student body and a goodly number of parents visiting the school at commencement time. Seated on the platform were Dr. Scott the father of Mrs. Stam, Mrs. Martin, for many years a resident of Tungchow and a friend and helper of the school and its students, Miss Sarah Wylie, president of the Alumni Association, and Horace Dewey, a member of this year's graduating class.

Horace Dewey explained in his introduction to the Service how a former principal of the school, Mr. Lund, had offered to pay for the placing of a memorial plaque and how the Alumni had responded by contributing the plaque.

After an appropriate hymn by the school choir, Mrs. Martin gave a short address expressing appreciation--not of Elisabeth Scott Stam, as she said--but of Betty Scott, the lovely young girl who was a student at the N.C.A.S. Mrs. Martin had known her in the classroom, on the athletic grounds, and as a pupil in her Sunday school class. She said she would try not to be sentimental in her remarks, for Betty would hate that. She told how Betty Scott and a few other students of her time were outstandingly strong students because each of them had done his best, and she commented on Betty's steady, high scholarship, her good work in basketball and her robust spiritual life. She worked wholeheartedly at all her undertakings--always gave the last measures--and so her school life prepared her to give the very last measure of devotion in the end. After she had some heart trouble she began to express her inner life in poetry.

Betty was born on George Washington's birthday and partly for that reason she had been encouraged in patriotic interests, especially in Washington and Lincoln. Mrs. Martin made use of Lincoln's lines in dedicating the memorial tablet. She said, "We have come to dedicate this tablet. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this bit of metal. This brave girl living and dead who studied here, has consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. It is for us the living rather to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from our honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which she gave the last full measure of devotion--That we here highly resolve that she shall not have died in vain; that this nation under God shall have a new birth."

The unveiling and presentation of the Memorial Plaque by Miss Sarah Wylie was followed by an address from Dr. Scott. He told of the Scott Family's interest in N.C.A.S. and how the Scott children had attended the school until their enforced withdrawal at the time of the Nanking disaster in 1927. Dr. Scott read and quoted from Betty's poems to show the development of her life and character. The selections he chose gave

vital expression to the drama of her inner life, which reached a high climax when she had a deep experience of complete surrender of herself to God's service. Her poems were vital and moving and beautiful. The students were especially pleased with her lovely poem called "Color", which she had put down on paper after convalescing from an illness. Older people were impressed by her maturity of thought, as expressed in her poems, several of which Dr. Scott read as they illustrated the development and unfolding of her religious experience and life, which was cut short by her triumphant death through those who knew not what they did.

The service concluded with a solo, "My Prayer", written by Mrs. Stam and sung by Mrs. Hunter, and a benediction by the Principal, Mr. Robinson.

Dear Jake:

For all the families. Daddy Scott each day at A.M. worship. We point out the pictures of members of the Stam clan to H.P. and she calls off the names.