



WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS WITH PASTOR LYLE WAHL

10 November 2023

Remember

Tomorrow is Remembrance Day.

All across Canada in public ceremonies and private memories, we will remember those who served, sacrificed and died for Canada, for freedom here and around the world.

Eight *Books of Remembrance* containing the names of more than 120,000 Canadians who have given their lives in the service of our country are kept in the nation's capital. Every morning at eleven o'clock, an officer of the House of Commons Parliamentary Protective Service performs the *Turning of the Page Ceremony*. A calendar ensures that each page of each book is displayed at least once per year. Some pages are displayed for several days, on or near the date of a related anniversary. And so collectively we remember, we honor those who gave their lives in the service of our country.



The internet can help us put a few names and faces to those who died in service. People from all walks of life, serving in many different roles down through the years. Let me share one with you today. He was not a member of the infantry, pilot, submariner or commanding officer. He was a chaplain in World War II. Here is the sketch of his service I located.



Rev. Walter Brown was an Anglican chaplain and served the 27th Armoured Regiment (Sherbrooke Fusiliers) as World War II began. He was one of the first Canadian chaplains to land at Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He served his men and even buried some of his fellow soldiers at Beny-sur-Mer, now a Canadian war cemetery. Within days, he was reported to have been captured by an SS unit,

then listed as a prisoner of war, but was found to have been

summarily executed after surrendering to members of the 12th SS Panzer Division Hitlerjugend on the 6th of June. He was the only allied military chaplain to suffer this fate, although several were killed and wounded in action in World War II. His body was found five weeks later by the side of the road, and was subsequently buried at Beny-sur-Mer on July 11. His chaplain communion kit made its way home to Canada, and was eventually donated to the Huron College Chapel, in London Ontario, where it is used regularly for worship, and remains an abiding symbol for the college community of “the demands of sacrifice and the necessity of the willingness to serve.”

Some might ask if it is appropriate for Christians to observe Remembrance Day, while others quickly pivot to the greatest sacrifice ever made, Jesus Christ dying for us. Remembering is important. For perspective, note just a few things:

- God remembers us, we are to remember Him and what He has done.
- We are to remember who and what we were before we came to Christ, as well as our present and future with Him.
- We are to remember God’s Word to us.
- We are to remember each other, including those who have gone before us, and so run the race before us with endurance. *Question:* what are some of the reasons God gives so much history of individuals in the Bible, their faithfulness and lack of faithfulness? Yes, we are to learn, and to *remember*.

Remembering is important. As we remember those who have served and sacrificed for us, may it motivate us to be responsible in the present, and diligent in moving forward, *lest we forget*.

Pastor Lyle