

THE MESSENGERS INTERNATIONAL



Lest We Forget...

They are not forgotten.

One day there will be world peace. I believe this with all my heart and conviction. In the meantime I pray that wars should ideally only take place to stop evilness such as the Rwandan massacre or the massacre taking place in Darfur. Peace keepers should be sent in to end the genocide and to bring justice. But soldiers will die. Every parent's worst nightmare is to have a child die before the parent dies.

"Blessed are the peace-keepers, for they shall be called sons of God."

What makes life so precious is that one day we will die. We should not fear death or hate it but pray that we have worthily lived our life.

Recently I was in a WWII Commonwealth Cemetery in Italy. The grounds were immaculate, the gardens magnificent. It was very peaceful for the 2,619 soldiers in their graves and the remains of 517 cremated soldiers. I prayed for them and because of them. They are not forgotten.

The Sangro River Commonwealth Cemetery is in an isolated part of the Italian country side amongst vineyards and farms. As my wife Maggie and I were leaving we noticed a young boy of about 10 entering

the cemetery. He asked me in Italian if I knew any of the people that were buried there. I said no. He said the week before someone had come by to visit their father's grave He said he liked coming to the cemetery and to clean up around the graves. I asked if he lived near by, he said not to far away. I suspect it was a bit of a walk for him. He said it was the least he could do for the sacrifice these young men made to liberate Italy. He was young but his heart and wisdom were beyond his years.



They are not forgotten.

On the way out my wife signed our names to the visitor's book. Then I saw it. The young boy had signed his name and under the comment section he had written, "Grazie!!!"

They are not forgotten.



Assisi Heroes Honoured

On 17 June a ceremony was held at Assisi War Cemetery in Italy to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Assisi, Italy by Allied forces in 1944.

Assisi is the scene of an unusual adoption programme. An Italian war veteran, Vincenzo Cavanna, noticed that the Commonwealth War Cemetery had few visitors. The relatives of those buried there lived far away and found it hard to visit. He set up a scheme of adoption and local people have so far adopted over 300 graves. Priority was given to soldiers from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, as their families were least likely to visit.

They are not and will not be forgotten.



SANGRO RIVER COMMONWEALTH WAR CEMETERY CHIETI, ITALY

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