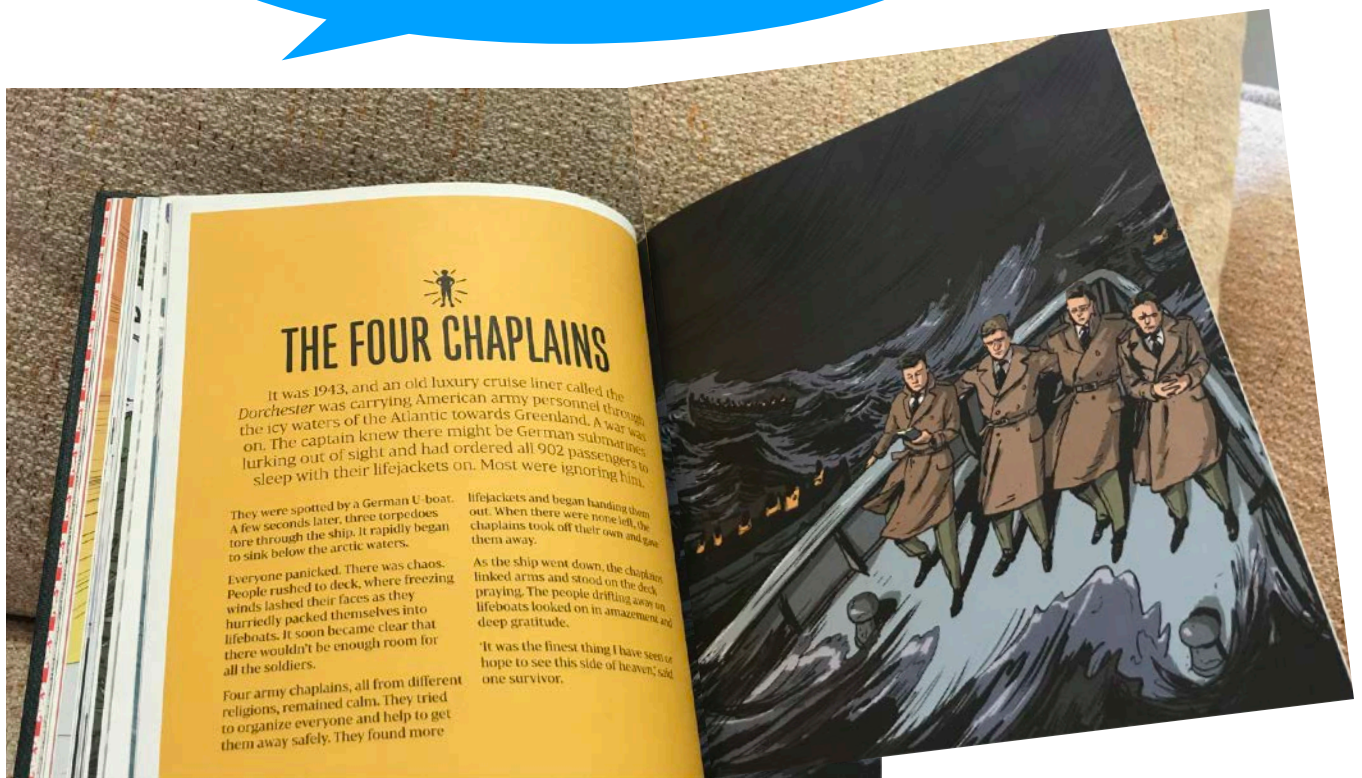


Children can bring unexpected joys, as well as unexpected challenges of course.

For Graham this week an unexpected joy was this text from our youngest grandson.

Hi grandpa, this is Lukas. I thought you might find this story interesting.

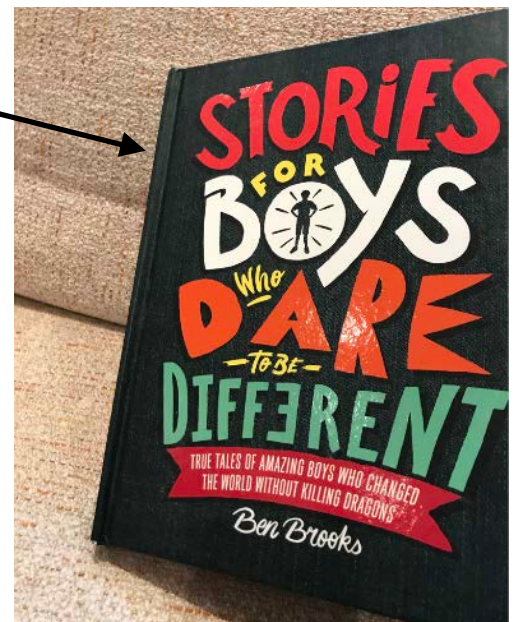


And then, on enquiring as to source of this information, this book cover.

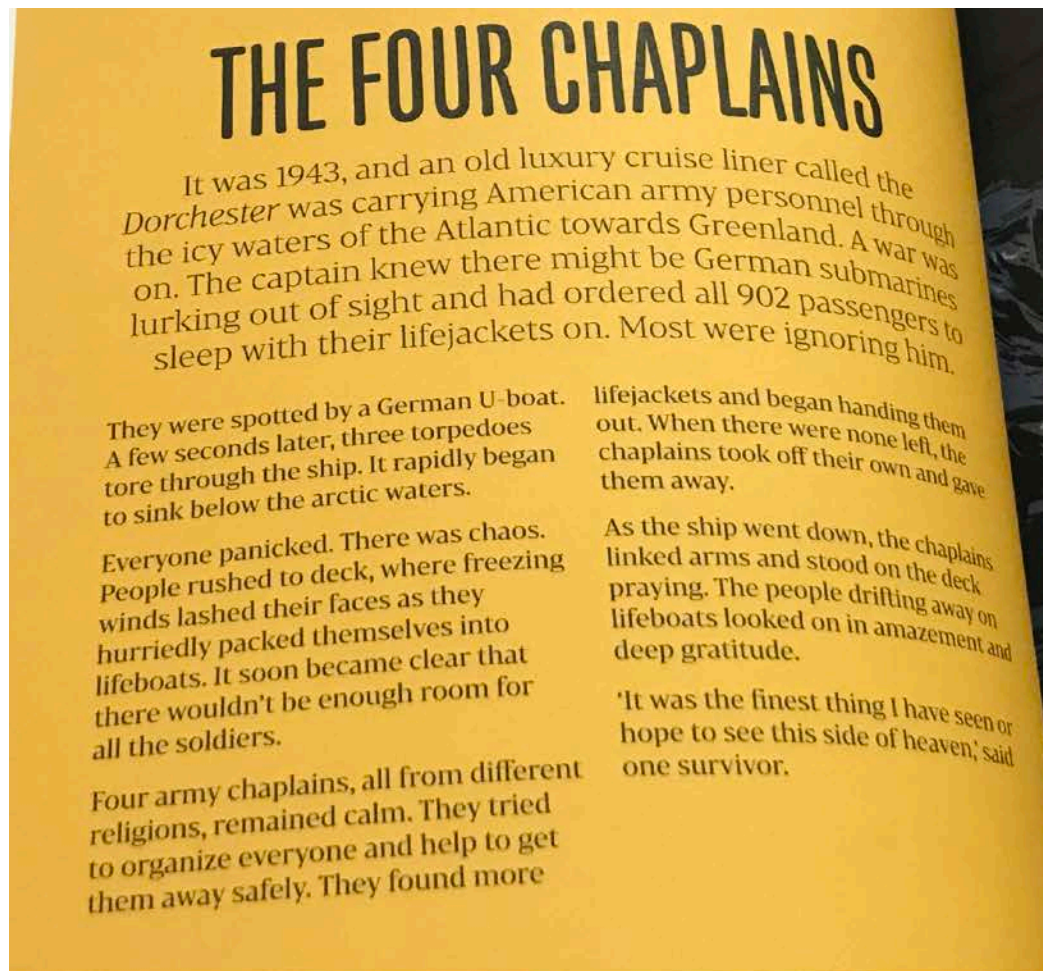
To my surprise, and to my shame, we had never heard of these four men, also called the *Dorchester* chaplains.

The relatively new US army chaplains during WW2 were:

Methodist minister the Reverend George Fox;
 Reform Rabbi Alexander Goode;
 Catholic Priest Father John Washington: and
 Reformed Church in America minister, the Reverend Clark Poling.



Their backgrounds, personalities, and denominations were different, although Goode, Poling and Washington had all served as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. They met at the Army Chaplains School at Harvard University, where they prepared for assignments in the European theatre of war, sailing on board *Dorchester* to report to their new assignments.



The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

The impact of the chaplains story was deep, with many memorials and coverage in the media. Each of the four chaplains was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart.

The chaplains were nominated for the Medal of Honor but were found ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy. Instead, Congress created a medal for them, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

Their highest commendation is however:

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"

Christine Bradbeer