

MAY 13



remembrance ni

23 from NI lost in sinking of HMS Goliath off Gallipoli - May 13, 1915



HMS Goliath was torpedoed by a Turkish destroyer while she was at anchor in Morto Bay off Cape Helles. 570 of the 750 men aboard were lost when the ship sank after an explosion. Two lost in Goliath, Boy First Class Alfred Henry

MAY 13

Gadd and Stoker First Class Hector Hiles, had Newtownards links. At least 23 men from N Ireland were lost and 73 from all Ireland.

At the start of World War I the major navies had significant numbers of pre-dreadnought battleships which, though in many cases only eight or ten years old, had been rendered wholly obsolete by the commissioning of HMS *Dreadnought* in 1905.

This, the first turbine-driven, all-big gun, battleship, mounted ten 12” guns, compared with the almost universal armament of four 12-inch guns for the average pre-dreadnought, and set the model for all subsequent capital ships.

By the outbreak of war in 1914 large numbers of “dreadnoughts” – the name had already come to symbolise a type – were in service in the larger navies. Putting obsolete pre-dreadnoughts into a battle-line which would have to face much more powerfully-armed dreadnoughts was likely to be little short of suicidal.

HMS *Goliath* was a [Canopus class pre-dreadnought battleship](#) that served off the east coast of Africa and on the Dardanelles in the early years of the [First World War](#). Like the rest of her class, at the start of August 1914 she joined the 8th Battle Squadron of the channel fleet, helping to cover the passage of the BEF to France. She remained with the channel fleet for longer than her sister ships. In late August she was used to ship the Plymouth battalion of Marines to Ostend.

MAY 13

In September she was dispatched to the East Indies station, to help escort the Indian army to the Middle East and east Africa. On 30 October she arrived at Mombasa with the Indian Army expedition to German East Africa, but she then needed repairs before she could continue, forcing the expedition to proceed without the support of her guns. By 28 November she had been repaired and was able to take part in the bombardment of Dar-es-Salaam, but she then needed to go to the Cape for a further refit.

She was repaired by 25 February 1915, when Admiral King-Hall sailed in her from the Cape to German East Africa. She reached Mafia Island, off the Rufiji Delta, on 7 March. Admiral King-Hall wanted to keep her at Mafia Island, to guard against the danger of a breakout by the [Königsberg](#), a series danger during a period of high tides, but on 25 March he was ordered to shift his flag, and she was ordered to go to the Dardanelles.

Her journey took her through the Suez Canal, where she was initially expected to stay for a time, but on 12 April she was ordered to proceed directly to the Aegean, where she was needed to support the [Gallipoli landings](#). On 25 April she formed part of the First Squadron, used to support the landings at the tip of the peninsula. On the next day she was used to help the evacuation of "Y Beach", the only one of the initial landings to fail. On 29-30 April she was briefly detached to defend the Suez Canal against an expected Turkish attack, but was recalled when French ships were sent to Suez.

On the night of 12-13 May, HMS *Goliath* and HMS *Cornwallis* were chosen to support French troops on the right of the Allied line. The *Goliath* anchored off Morto Bay.

MAY 13

On the same night, Lieutenant-Commander Firle, a German officer serving with the Turkish fleet, got permission to take the destroyer *Muavenet-i-Millet* (600 tons, top speed 33 knots, armed with three torpedo tubes, built in 1909) through the straits to attack the Allied battleships. Aided by the fog, he got within torpedo range of the *Goliath* before he was spotted and challenged. He first three torpedoes, and then escaped to safety.

The first torpedo hit the *Goliath* by her forward 12in turret. She then began to list to port. The second torpedo hit by the forward funnel. The ship continued to turn over, and was nearly on her beam ends when the third torpedo hit near her aft 12in turret. She then turned turtle, floated upside down for a couple of minutes and then sank bows first. Of the 750 men then serving on her, 570, including Captain Shelford, were lost.

HMS Goliath

Roll of Honour

+BERINGER, William Ernest

RN. Stoker 1st Class. 309949. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Aged 28. "The Admiralty have notified the relatives of William Beringer, High-street, who was on board HMS Goliath, which has been sunk at the Dardanelles with a loss of 500 lives, that they are sorry that his name does not appear in the list of saved." Enrolled 25/04/1906 for 12 years. Served in Acheron, Pembroke II, Bulwark, Duncan, St. George, Tyne, and Goliath (09/12/1913 - 13/05/1915). Born Newtownards 21/11/1886. Third son of Frederick and Elizabeth Berringer, High St., Portaferry. They had at least

MAY 13

seven children. Another son, Frederick, also died in the war serving with Canadian infantry. Their brother John who survived served in the Merchant Navy. Ballyphilip C of I Parish Church RH. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 11. ADM 188/506/309949

BLAIR, Charles

RN. Leading Stoker. 309280. Enrolled 03/12/1905 for 12 years. Served to 21/04/1911. Joined RFR. Served 13/07/1914 - 14/03/1919. War service in Prince George, Goliath, Hyacinth, Talbot and Vivid II. Born Belfast 02/08/1886. ADM 188/505/309280

+BROWN, William James

RN. 227825. HMS Pegasus. Died 20/09/1914. Enrolled 02/05/1905 for 12 years. War service in Pegasus, Goliath, Hyacinth, Challenger and Vivid I. Born Londonderry 22/05/1887. ADM 188/402/227825

+DENNIS, John Joseph

RNR. Seaman gunner. 5771A. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 22. Action off Cape Helles, Dardanelles. Two other Derry men lost - John Doherty RN and Robert Hutchinson RM. He was engaged for over four years with the Cunard Company, and his last position, before being transferred to Goliath, was wireless operator on the Aquitania. Aquitania was the third in Cunard Line's "grand trio" of express liners, preceded by the RMS Mauretania and RMS Lusitania, and was the last surviving four-funnelled ocean liner. Born in Larne. Son of James and Mary Dennis, Clooney Terrace, Waterside, Londonderry. Native of Larne. His father, James, was born at Armagh around 1865/66, worked as a railway engine driver for the

MAY 13

Midland Railway, died 01/04/1919. Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 8. Londonderry, The Diamond WM

+DOHERTY, John

RN. Leading Seaman. 197551. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 34. Son of John and Bridget Doherty, Daisy Hill Cottages, Boom Hall, Culmore Rd., Londonderry. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Londonderry, The Diamond WM

+GADD, Alfred Henry Victor

RN. Boy 1st Cl. J27246. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Aged 17 years 11 months. His death was widely reported in Newtownards papers. His Newtownards connections are traceable over three generations. Two others from Newtownards were lost in Goliath - Wm Beringer and Hector Hiles. Alfred was the son of Alfred and Katherine Gadd, Winchmore Hill, London. Grandson of Thomas Cleland from Killyleagh and Marianne Brown who were married in Regent Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards. Newtownards WM

+HARKNESS, Alexander

RMLI. Private. PLY/11869. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 29. Enlisted 07/10/1902. War service in Caesar, Magnificent and Goliath (17/08/1914 - 13/05/1915). Killed in action with Turkish destroyer in Dardanelles. Born 29/12/1884. Native of Ballygarvey, Co. Antrim. Son of John and Mary J Harkness, from Knockboy, Co. Antrim, resident Winchester St., Belfast. ADM 159/150/11869

+HILES, Hector

RN. Stoker 1st Class. SS109881. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Aged 35. Killed in action with Turkish destroyer

MAY 13

in Dardanelles. Born Comber 01/07/1887. Son of Thomas Hamilton Hiles and Anna Maria Hiles (nee Carson), Mill St., Comber. Husband of Catherine Hiles, Derwent St., Belfast. Married in Dundela Presbyterian Church. Photo in Belfast Telegraph 18/6/1915. Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 11. Comber Parish Church WM. Megain Memorial - PCI RH. Comber WM. IMR. ADM 188/1115/109881

+HOLLAND, Charles

RNR. Stoker. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Killed in action with Turkish destroyer in Dardanelles. Belfast

+HUTCHINSON, Robert

RMLI. Private. 10742. Plymouth Division. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Served 13/03/1903 - 09/04/1913. Joined RFR 10/04/1913. War service from 13/07/1914 in Hannibal and Goliath (29/17/1914 - 13/05/19150. He had been in a previous engagement off the German South West African Coast in Goliath. Born Coagh, Co Tyrone, 22/03/1883. Son of Robert and Fanny Hutchinson, Creggan Road, Rosemount. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Great James Street - PCI RH. Cookstown WM. Londonderry, The Diamond WM. ADM 159/78/10742

+HUTCHINSON, Robert

RMLI. Private. 10742. Plymouth Division. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Served 13/03/1903 - 09/04/1913. Joined RFR 10/04/1913. War service from 13/07/1914 in Hannibal and Goliath (29/17/1914 - 13/05/19150. Goliath was part of the Allied fleet during naval operations in the Dardanelles campaign, On the night of May 12-13, 1915 off Cape Helles, a Turkish torpedo boat , fired three torpedoes which struck

MAY 13

Goliath causing a massive explosion – the ship capsized almost immediately taking 570 of the 700-strong crew to the bottom. Born Coagh, Co Tyrone, 22/03/1883. Son of Robert and Fanny Hutchinson, Creggan Road, Rosemount. Plymouth Naval Memorial. Great James Street - PCI RH. Cookstown WM. Londonderry, The Diamond WM. ADM 159/78/10742

+JONES, John

RNR. 1035U. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 42. Husband to Charlotte Jones, Sugarfield St., Belfast. Photo in Belfast Telegraph 25/6/1915. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10

+JONES, Robert

RNR. Stoker. 2249T. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 43. Husband to Margaret Jones, Hurst St., Sandy Row, Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10. IMR. Belfast Corporation RH.

+KELSO, James

RN. AB. J8992. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 22. Killed in action with Turkish destroyer in Dardanelles. Boy service from 25/07/1910. Enrolled 10/03/1911 for 12 years. War service in Hecla, Vivid I, Defiance and Goliath (01/08/1914 - 13/05/1915). Born Kilkeel 10/03/1893. Kilkeel, Co. Down. ADM 188/664/8992

+LEE, Thomas

RN. Stoker. 1661U. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10. Belfast Cathedral Mission, Mariners' Church RH

+McANALLY, John

RNR. Stoker. 1744U. HMS Goliath. Died 13/5/1915. Age 45. Son of John and Catherine McAnally, of Belfast; husband to Mary McAnally, Linen St., Belfast. Photo in Belfast Telegraph 26/6/1915. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10. Shankill Rd Mission - PCI RH. IMR

+McDOWELL, Robert John

RNR. Stoker. 2644S. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Age 22. Son of James and Letitia McDowell, Leopold St., Belfast. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10

MILLAR, Thomas

RN. Stoker I. K12636. Enrolled 22/09/1911 for 12 years. War service in Goliath, Victorious, Pembroke, St., George, Wellington, Crescent and Polyanthus. Born Carrickfergus 05/06/1893. ADM 188/892/12636

MOORE, William

RN. Stoker First Class. SS109144. Enrolled 06/08/1909 for 5 and 7 years. Served to 25/06/1919. Joined RFR 26/06/1919. War service in Pembroke II, Aboukir, Goliath and Victorious. Born Belfast 12/05/1891. ADM 188/1115/109144

+O'DONNELL, Hugh

RN. Stoker I. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Killed in action with Turkish destroyer in Dardanelles.

+SIMPSON, Gordon D

RNR. Seaman. 5753A. HMS Goliath. Died 12/05/1915. Age 24. Gallipoli. Son of William (solicitor) and Kathleen Simpson. Remembered on the family grave memorial in St.

MAY 13

Mark's Church of Ireland churchyard, Armagh. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10

+WARNOCK, Thomas

RNR. Stoker. 1079U. HMS Goliath. Died 13/05/1915. Dardanelles. Survived by wife and five children. North Ann St./Marine St, Belfast. Photo in Belfast Telegraph 18/06/1915. Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 10. Rosemary Street - PCI RH. Belfast Cathedral Mission, Mariners' Church RH

+WOODSIDE, David

RN. Stoker I. K/19058. HMS Hannibal. Died 30/12/1918. Died after accident while coaling ship at Alexandra on Armistice Day. Enrolled 10/03/1908 for 12 years. War service in Goliath, Pembroke, Mars, and Hannibal in which he served three periods, the last being 16/01/1916 - 30/12/1918. Born Islandmagee 20/03/1889. Son of the late James and Sarah Woodside, Ballykeel, Islandmagee. Brother of Thomas, RN. Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery. First Islandmagee - PCI RH. ADM 188/905/19058

In the newspapers - May 13

Belfast Newsletter, 13 May 1915

TROOPS' VISIT TO BALLYMONEY.

A squadron of the Inniskilling Dragoons, in charge of Major [Strettell](#), and a detachment of the 36th Divisional Cyclists' Company, commanded by Lieutenant Warman, arrived in Ballymoney yesterday at mid-day. Flags were displayed from all the principal buildings and most of the houses in

MAY 13

honour of the visit. The Dragoons were quartered in the Town Hall and the Protestant Hall and the cyclists in the Y.M.C.A. premises. The party proceeds en route to Magilligan this morning.

Northern Whig, 13th May 1918

Ulster Division Rank & File Fatalities

Private Thomas Lyons, 41325, 9th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, formerly 1846, North Irish Horse, killed in action 29th March, 1918. He was a son of Thomas and Eliza Jane Lyons nee Smith, of 24 Donegall Avenue, Belfast. Deceased was only 22 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France. 13th May 1918, Northern Whig

Rifleman William Anderson, 12512, 23rd Entrenching Battalion, formerly A' Company 14th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles (Y.C.V.'s) killed in action, 26th March, 1918. He was a son of William J and Mary Anderson nee Starret, of 12 Hemp Street, Belfast. Deceased was only 23 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

Northern Whig, 13th May 1918

Rifleman David Fell, 14594, 15th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action 19th March, 1918. Son of Thomas and Helen Fell, of 20 Hanna Street, Belfast. Deceased was only 23 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France. 13th May 1918, Northern Whig

Corporal James McDowell, 20/160, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died of wounds 23rd March, 1918. He was a son

MAY 13

of William and Margaret McDowell, of 22 Erin Street, Belfast. He was a son of Daniel and Mary McDowell, of 40. Israel Street, Belfast. Decease was 22 years of age and is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.
13th May 1918, Northern Whig

Northern Whig, 13th May 1918

Ulster Division Rank and File Fatalities

Rifleman William Allen, Ser. No. 59, 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, died of wounds 2nd May 1918. Grandson of Mrs. Ellen McKee nee Allen and David McKee, of 1 Toome Road, Ballymena, Co Antrim. Note - Deceased who was only 19 years of age is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France.

Rifleman William Dyer, 12291, 21st Entrenching Battalion formerly 10th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, killed in action on the opening day of "Operation Michael" 21st March, 1918. He was the husband of Elizabeth Dyer nee Watson, (formerly Mitchell). Note - Rifleman Dyer was 36 years of age and is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France.

RAF Bomber Command Operations

Night Ops, May 11/12th, Thursday night and early Friday.

1) BOURG-LEOPOLD:- 5 Group sent 190 Lancasters and 8 Mosquitoes, accompanied by 3 PFF Mosquitoes, to attack a large military camp in Belgium, but haze hampered the marking and the Master Bomber ordered the raid to be

abandoned (in case nearby civilians were bombed) after 94 Lancs had unloaded their bombs. 5 Lancasters were missing and a 61 Sqn Lanc ran off the end of the runway on returning to Skellingthorpe (no injuries in this crash).

2) BOULOGNE:- 80 Halifaxes, 47 Lancasters and 8 Mosquitoes (135 aircraft in total) of 6 and 8 Groups to bomb the railway yards. Some bombs did hit the yards but the bulk of the bombing fell on nearby civilian housing, killing 128 civilians. 2 Halifaxes failed to return.

3) HASSELT:- 126 Lancasters and 6 Mosquitoes from 1 and 8 Groups. The railway yards target was marked but after 39 aircraft had bombed and missed due to the haze the Master Bomber stopped the attack. 5 Lancasters didn't make it home.

4) LOUVAIN:- 3 and 8 Groups dispatched 105 Lancs and 5 Mossies to attack the railway yards but the main bombing hit the railway workshops and nearby storage buildings. 4 Lancasters were missing.

5) TROUVILLE:- 53 Halifaxes (including 17 from 578 Sqn) and 6 PFF Mosquitoes attacked railway yards. The bombing was accurate and a large explosion was observed. All aircraft returned safely. Although there was a 76 Sqn Hallie which swung out of control on take off and crashed (no casualties) and thus did not take part in the raid.

6) COLLINE BEAUMONT:- 53 Halifaxes from 4 Group and 6 PFF Mosquitoes attacked a gun position. The target was difficult to mark and no results were observed. Again, all aircraft returned safely.

7) Minor Ops:-

100 Group sent out 8 RCM sorties and 6 Serrate patrols.

12 aircraft gardening off French ports.

3 aircraft on Resistance support drops.

Again, all returned safely.

101 of our airmen were killed, 17 were taken prisoner and 4 evaded.

Only 61 and 630 Sqdns lost more than 1 aircraft, with both squadrons losing 2.

Total Effort for the night:- 725 sorties for the loss of 16 aircraft (2.2%).

Roll of Honour - May 13

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+GRANT, William H

2 Black Watch. Private 34032. Died 13/05/1915. Born in Blaris, Co. Down, he enlisted at Kirkintilloch, Dumbartonshire. Le Touret Memorial, France, panels 24-26.

+GRIMASON, John

Royal Irish Fusiliers. 2nd Btn. Private. 6234. Died 13/05/1915 at the Battle of Frezenberg (2nd Ypres) aged only 17. John was in a group assembling in a wood waiting to go into the trench line when a shell exploded killing John instantly and wounded 6 of his comrades. His brother Able

MAY 13

Seaman George Grimason 235183 Royal Navy died 09/10/1915 aged 27. John was born 1898 son of John and Mary Grimason 14 Carleton St Portadown. Before the war he was employed in Lutton's building firm at Carleton St. He enlisted 07/10/1914 in Portadown. Menin Gate memorial , Ypres. Both he and his brother are commemorated on Portadown war memorial, St Mark's Parish Church War Memorial

See also article and RH of HMS Goliath

1916

+HUMPHREYS, John

18th Bn. Canadian Infantry. Private. 413050. Died 13/05/1916. Aged 29. Born 24/03/1887. Son of Duncan and Anne Jane Humphreys, Layde, Cushendall. Brother of Denis KIA 24/03/1916. Voormezeele Enclosures

+MITCHELL, Arthur Gorman

Royal Irish Rifles 5th Btn attached 2nd. 2nd Lieutenant. Died 13/05/1916. Aged 19. Arthur was born on 28th August 1896, the son of Lt Col Arthur Brownlow Mitchell (Royal Army Medical Corps), and Agnes Crawford Mitchell (nee Gorman, who died in childbirth) of 18 University Square, Belfast. As well as Inst, he was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, and Queen's University Belfast, where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps.

MAY 13

He was gazetted a Second Lieutenant in the 5th Royal Irish Rifles on 08/05/1915, and joined the 2nd Battalion on 14/04/1916.

The battalion were in Brigade Reserve on 13/05/1916, at Cabaret Rouge, north of Arras. Two platoons of the battalion were sent to reinforce a body of 13th Cheshire Regiment men who were occupying the lip of a recently blown crater. On their way, they came under intense fire, with only a portion of them getting through with great difficulty. 4 men were killed in the operation, with Arthur being killed by a sniper's bullet.

Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont St Eloi, Pas de Calais, France. Arthur is one of 40 men from the battalion who are buried in Plot 1 between rows F and O. QUB WM

1918

+THOMPSON, John

Royal Irish Rifles. 12th Btn. C Coy. Rifleman. Died of pneumonia at Freiburg, Germany on the 13/05/1918, aged 19. He had joined the Ulster Division at the time of its formation and had previously been wounded at the Somme on the 1st July 1916. John was captured on the 21/03/1918. on the first day of the German Spring offensive. He was the son of Thomas and Rachel Thompson (nee Allen) of Kintullagh Terrace, Ballymena. Prior to the war he had worked for Messrs Smith & Co. Niedierzwehren Cemetery, Germany.

1919

MAY 13

+GLENN, William John

NZ Rifle Brigade, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 44718. Born 02/12/1875 in Ulster. Died 13/05/1919. Age 43. William joined the NZ Expeditionary Force in 1916 and served in France. He was admitted to No. 2 NZ General Hospital in Walton in Oct 1918, suffering from influenza. Discharged in December, his health never fully recovered, and he died just 5 months later of heart failure. Son of William and Mary Glenn. Siblings (incl) Miss JF Glenn, Mrs Charlotte Hutchinson, Miss Mary Glenn. Auckland, NZ

1943

+STEWART, William

Royal Irish Fusiliers. Corporal. 6975608. Died 13/05/1943. Age 33. Son of Patrick and Hannah Stewart; husband to Lucy Georgena Stewart, of Bearney, Co. Tyrone. El Alia, Algeria

1944

+SAUNDERSON, Christopher William Joffre

RAFVR. Flying Officer (Air Gunner). 157140. Died 13/05/1944. 76th Sqdn. Son of Captain W. R. Saunderson MC and Mrs. Saunderson of Rosebank, Cushendall Road, Ballymena. Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium.

VETERAN

ALDWELL, Basil Willington

RNVR Lieutenant (A) HMS Illustrious. Japanese POW. Born in Lurgan on 23/04/1920. Son of Frederick Basil and Edith

MAY 13

Aldwell. Educated at Trinity College, Dublin. His father was later the rector of St George's Parish Church, Belfast. Basil enlisted 20/11/1920.

War time service - 810 Sqdn. FAA. Temp Sub Lt 25/10/1941. 788 Sqdn. FAA. HMS Lanka (RN base Colombo). 01/10/1942 796 Sqdn FAA HMS Kilele (RN air station, Tanga, Tanganyika). 15/02/1943 Pilot 803 Sqdn FAA - army co-operation in East Africa. 20/09/1943 Pilot 797 Sqdn FAA HMS Ukussa (RN Air Station, Katakurun, Ceylon). 25/04/1925 Temporary Lieutenant . Flying Barracudas. 26/02/1944. Pilot 810 Sqdn FAA. HMS Illustrious. 21/06/1944 shot down on bombing raid on Port Blair, Andaman Islands with Observer S/Lt Gunther and PO Rogers, LS 471.

They were captured 15 miles off the Andaman Islands. Treatment on board a Japanese ship was good but deteriorated when they reached the islands being handcuffed and taken to Andaman Jail for interrogation. After 10 days they were flown to Singapore and although being interrogated the treatment and food was much better than at Andaman. They were then flown by Saigon, Hong Kong and Taiwan to South Honshu, Japan. They were then taken to Tokyo POW Camp. South west from the centre of Yokohama. There were 135 POWs who were naval aviators from UK and USA. Add to that submariners who had been captured. The camp leaders were two US navy officers. On 05/04/1945 the Japanese discovered that CPO Rogers was not an officer. He was moved to Omori Camp, Japan, where he was eventually liberated. Basil and Robert Gunther were questioned and punished for 10 months during which they both lost 60 lbs through lack of food. Daily for weeks they

MAY 13

were beaten by baseball bats, made to stand on their toes or their hands. Although they were both beaten down and started to answer questions after ten months of sheer misery, they were still being questioned up to the time Japan capitulated.

During his time at Ofuna Basil undertook a religious reading at the burials of fellow prisoners. These were based on the upbringing in his youth by his father Rev F B Aldwell. At liberation there was a change of guard at Ofuna. Masses of food and clothes were freely given. Previously the Japanese had retained over half of the Red Cross parcels and the remainder rationed over several months. Basil was diagnosed as a sitting case aboard Hospital Ship Benevolence in Tokyo Bay. He was suffering from Beri Beri and malnutrition. He was vaccinated for TB. He was taken by hospital ship to Auckland, New Zealand.

The Japanese Commander Yokura Sashizo was sentenced to 25 years hard labour at the War Crimes trials.

It was not until 1950 that Basil was fit enough to work. A radio ham, his first post was fixing the police radar in Northern Ireland. A keen sailor who won the Ailsa Craig race twice he kept a ship's chandlers in Bangor. He and Hilda Patricia Thompson married. They had three children. Basil had a farm on the coast of Strangford Lough where he bred pedigree Herefords. When the Troubles broke out in N Ireland he moved to Meath and then to Guernsey. He also had a home in Key Largo, Florida where he and his wife went each winter because of his lungs. He died on 13/05/1996 aged 76 at home in Guernsey. His remains were interred at St Pierre du Bois. Brother of Lt.(E) Thomas Derek

MAY 13

Aldwell, RN who died in a FAA aircraft crash at St Merryn (Also known as HMS Vulture and HMS Curlew) on 13/09/1950.

On this day - May 13

1940

The Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth gives support to Churchill's government by 2,413,000 votes to 170,000. Neville Chamberlain resigned after pressure from Labour members for a more active prosecution of the war and Winston Churchill became the new head of the wartime coalition government. Chamberlain gave Churchill his unreserved support. Ernest Bevin was made minister of labour and recruited workers for the factories and stepped up coal production. Lord Beaverbrook, minister of Aircraft Production increased production of fighter aircraft.

Winston Churchill on May 13, 1940, upon his very first entrance into the House of Commons as Britain's new Prime Minister said -

"We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? ... It is to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime."

"You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: victory; victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival."

MAY 13

Queen Wilhelmina and the Dutch royal family arrive in London.

Supported by waves of Luftwaffe Stuka dive-bombers, the two German Panzer Korps of Heeresgruppe B establish bridgeheads across the Meuse river, tearing a 50-mile gap in the French defenses between Dinant and Sedan. The 7th Panzer Division (Rommel) is the first division across. Dutch troops withdraw to their second and final line of defense on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Utrecht line.

1941

German aircraft begin to operate over Iraq in support of the rebellion by anti-British Iraqi forces.

1942 The British Chiefs of staff approve a major raid against the French port of Dieppe. Initially code-named 'Rutter', the plan had been under consideration since March by Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Chief of Combined Operations, who wanting to explore the problems of an opposed landing on the French coast.

The siege of Leningrad continues. Tanya Savicheva, a young girl, writes in her address book, "Mummy 13th May at 7.30 morning 1942. The Savichevs are dead, all dead, only Tanya remains." Her book also lists the death of her brothers, grandmother, and two uncles. Evacuated to Gorky on the Volga, Tanya herself dies of chronic dysentery in the summer of 1943.

1943

For the first time in the war, the British now claim more German prisoners than the Germans have British.

MAY 13

The Royal Navy begin the bombardment of Pantelleria Island, between Tunisia and Sicily.

Marshal Messe, the Italian C in C of Tunisia, surrenders to Montgomery.

1944

The allies take Sant' Angelo and Castelforte, thereby opening the way to Rome.

Jail Hill and other key Kohima features are recaptured by the British.

1945

The British Royal Family and allied military leaders attend a thanks giving service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Crown Prince Olav, some members of the exiled government and the head of the allied mission, Gen. Sir Andrew Thorne arrive in Oslo.

Rear Admiral Brønning, the commander of German naval forces, arrives at Felixstowe to sign the unconditional surrender of all boats under his command.

The last pockets of German resistance in Czechoslovakia are crushed by the Red Army.

U.S. troops capture Del Monte air base on Mindanao. The Australians clear the Wewak peninsula in New Guinea.

Acknowledgments

ADM - admiralty records

Belfast Newsletter

CWGC

Northern Whig

REMEMBRANCE NI DAILY POSTS

Click the headlines at -

<https://remembrancenl.org/>

remembrance nl

The **remembrance nl** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

Copyright - all material in this **remembrance nl** publication is copyright, and must not be reproduced in print or electronically.
