



Press Release

The Zeebrugge Raid 22/23 April 1918 – 100 Year Anniversary

A short outline in Warwick Tourist Information Centre is being exhibited during the Centennial Weekend, 19th – 23rd April 2018, to add another dimension to “the year of victories” within Belgium and France in 1918

On Sunday 22nd April, a commemorative act will take place during Evensong, 6.30pm, at St Mary’s Collegiate Church, Warwick – the very time a hundred years ago when the expedition was assembling for this daring attack.

‘The Finest Feat of Arms’

So it has been described and so it was for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines who took part. They were all volunteers and many did not return. They knew the risks of trying to storm and block the German held Belgian Channel ports but they still persisted, because the situation had been in 1917 and still was desperate.

The Germans were filtering through their U Boats at night. That problem had been reduced by searchlighting the Narrows, but Vice Admiral Roger Keyes, commander at Dover, realised that that was not enough. The exits from wonderful Burges (today) held a different attraction then – at least to the enemy. Only this was Keyes felt could vital supply ships, often neutral, bring the food threatened by unrestricted warfare to hungry and partially rationed civilians.

In the chaos and the darkness of the small hours of St George’s Day;

A) Killed or wounded 600 RN + RMS (plus others)

And afterwards;

B) Awards for committed gallantry that included 8 VCs, 17 DSOs and 139 DSMs



Zeebrugge: Blockships in the canal