

These brief narratives of individual ships and of the lad Ryan would be invidious were it not that the purpose in telling them is to focus the mind upon the fact that the circumstances of their valiant end were no more extraordinary than the tales that could be told of all those commemorated in the Main Memorial. We think of gallant ships going down with colours still flying and of their ships' companies faithful to the end. But the memorial to John recalls another price paid. Its inscription begins: "To the loving memory of our only son . . ."

The main focus of thought and tribute on the occasion of Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth's visit to the Church will, however, naturally be the Port Division Memorial which is to be dedicated on this occasion. This Memorial, which is the tribute of all the Chatham Port Division to their comrades and their officers who fell in the recent World War, has been conceived in three parts. The series of ten stained-glass windows placed in the chancel form the heart of the Memorial. The choir and sanctuary have been redecorated and beautified to become a fitting setting for them. A Book of Remembrance, in which the names of the 12,000 men of the Division who died on active service have been inscribed, has been lovingly produced and illuminated by Mr. Ernest Richards, a local craftsman, to preserve the memory of each and every one of them.

Three other windows which have been placed in the chancel are also to be dedicated at the same time. Two of these have been given in thanksgiving for the Divine Providence which was vouchsafed to those engaged in the evacuation at Dunkirk, and to those who took part in the landings of the Allied forces in North Africa. The third window commemorates the services rendered and the sacrifices made in both World Wars by the members of the Women's Royal Naval Service. It has been presented by the Chatham Branch of the W.R.N.S. Association.

All thirteen windows have been designed and made by Mr. Hugh Easton, who executed the windows in the Battle of Britain Memorial Chapel and, more recently, the Nurses' Memorial Chapel in Westminster Abbey. The ten windows which form the main part of the Memorial embody the crests and badges of ninety-four of His Majesty's ships, representative of the many manned from the Chatham Port Division lost by enemy action. Special emblems commemorating the Coastal Forces, the Submarine Service and Combined Operations, in each of which men of the Chatham Division served and died, have also been included in these windows. Other pages of this Memento give photographs and key descriptions of the windows, and so it is only necessary here to allude to the inspired theme of the five windows immediately above the High Altar. The central light is occupied by a representation, brilliantly conceived, of the Crucified, Resurrected and Ascended Christ, triumphant with hands raised in blessing upon all those men whom the crests in the surrounding windows com-

memorate. Our Lord is shown, not with the traditional features, but fearless, ever young, wise and supreme—in Tennyson's words, the "Strong Son of God, Immortal Love," shown even unto death and victorious over it. At the foot of one of these central windows is the figure of a young sailor (the model for which was a young seaman from the Depot) on bended knee looking up into the face of our Lord in wonder—in wonder and yet with understanding. He symbolizes all the young sailors who, as He did, paid the price with their lives. Appropriately, too, the windows contain what are known as the Instruments of the Passion—symbols, for example, of the Five Wounds, the Crown of Thorns, the Nails and Spear, the Cross, Scourges, and the others. Through each of the ten windows, and connecting all of them, there spreads out from the central light the theme of a flowering rose tree, symbolizing the Rose of England.

The windows commemorating the Dunkirk evacuation and the North Africa landings have been given by Mr. Dick Foxall. Mr. Foxall served in the Chatham Division during the war as a petty officer. He was present at Dunkirk and the North African landings, and was convinced that the success of both was due to Divine intervention—in short, that they were miracles. He was so deeply impressed by the "great calm" in the Channel during the momentous evacuation days, which enabled the exhausted troops to be rescued from the hands of the enemy and again by the covering of low clouds which protected the Navy and the convoys from air attack during the critical period of the landings in North Africa, that he wished some memorial raised. In thanksgiving, therefore, Mr. Foxall commissioned Mr. Easton to design and make two windows with these actions as their subject, and with great skill the artist has overcome the difficult task of interpreting a modern subject in an ancient craft. The result is a frank and bold interpretation of the actual events.

The Wrens' window is likewise original and expressive in theme and design. Ecclesiastical legend and tradition records that there are no fewer than seven St. Margarets in the hierarchy of Saints. One of them is revered as a slayer of dragons, and so, seizing upon the congruity of this theme with that of St. George's fame, the artist has rightfully and worthily shown St. Margaret slaying her dragon, and thus associates the Wrens with the men of the Navy in the defeat of evil. Those who look at this window will quickly notice that the crest of the W.R.N.S. has not been forgotten—the little Jenny Wren perched upon the Naval Crown and Anchor.

These brief descriptions can, however, only convey a little of the beauty and colour of these windows. Pre-eminent among modern workers in stained-glass, Mr. Easton has recaptured the glory of that pigmentation which was the secret of the medieval craftsmen. The windows are seen in their full beauty when the morning sun shines through them.

The scheme of redecoration for the sanctuary, chancel and baptistry

WINDOW No. 1—LEFT



EXMOOR REGULUS

FIREDRAKE

SALOPIAN IVANHOE

SOUTHAMPTON

WHIRLWIND JERVIS BAY

LEDA

ASPHODEL ESCORT

SKIPJACK PARTRIDGE

WINDOW A—CENTRE



THE
FIVE WOUNDS

MERCURY

CALCUTTA ENCOUNTER

FELINSTOWE

KNEELING SAILOR

THE NORE MEMORIAL CHAPEL (The Chancel)

Stained Glass Windows - Left to Right:

- Nos. 1 and 2 Memorial to King George VI
- No. 3 St. George - The Dunkirk Memorial
- No. 4 A memorial to: HMS Clacton, Martin, Intrepid, Forfar, Marigold, Boadicea, City of Rochester, Dunvegan Castle, Keith, Mashona, Achates, Auricula, Bedouin
- No. 5 A memorial to: HMS Campbelltown, Lark, Sphinx, Hurricane, Cossack, Marmion, Curlew, Veteran, Wakeful, Blean, Samphire, Grove, Naiad.
- No. 6 A memorial to: HMS Exmoor, Regulus, Firedrake, Salopian, Ivanhoe, Southampton, Whirlwind, Jervis Bay, Leda, Asphodel, Escort, Skipjack, Partridge.
- No. 7 The Five Wounds - A memorial to: HMS Mercury, Calcutta, Encounter, Felixstowe - A kneeling Sailor
- No. 8 Crown of Thorns - A memorial to: HMS Eagle, Bramble, Arbutus, Dunoon, Avenger, Curacoa, Hostile, Zinnia, Wryneck, Niger.
- No. 9 (Centre) - The Crucifixion.
- No. 10 Cross - A memorial to: HMS Harvester, Grenade, Sikh, York, Medway, Fitzroy, Gossamer, Ibis, Heythrop, Fenzance.
- No. 11 Chalice - A memorial to: HMS Imogen, Gallant, Dragon, Cornwall, Havock, Thanet, Legion, Kipling, Lightning, Kelly
- No. 12 A memorial to: HMS Vimiera, Hurst Castle, Electra, Widnes, Walney, Gardenia, Dasher, Juno, Bath, Princess Victoria, Goodall, Stoke.
- No. 13 A memorial to: HMS Hartland, Pylades, Welshman, Brighton Belle, Pintail, Waverley, Picotee, Tunsburg Castle, Bullen also to Coastal Forces, Landing Craft and Submarines.
- No. 14 St. Margaret of Antioch - A memorial to the W.R.N.S
- No. 15 St. Michael - The North Africa Memorial Window

The windows were designed and made by Mr. Hugh Easton

- Asphodel (D.F.W.)** A corvette sunk 9.3.44 by U.575 off Cape Finisterre. The badge represents an illustration of this flower of the Lily family.
- Escort** A destroyer torpedoed 8.7.40 by Italian submarine 'Marconi' in Western Mediterranean - ship foundered in tow on 11.7.40. The badge represents a Yeoman Warder, escort of the keys.
- Skipjack** A minesweeper sunk 1.6.40 by air attack off Dunkirk. The badge shows an illustration of the name.
- Partridge** A destroyer sunk 18.12.42 by U.565 off Oran. The badge shows an illustration of the name.

WINDOW No. 7

- Mercury** A paddle minesweeper sunk 25.12.40 South of Ireland after hitting one of her own mines. The badge depicting the sceptre of Mercury/Hermes is that of the RN Signal School, HMS Mercury, designed after the loss of the minesweeper.

The roof of the Chancel apse has been painted in celestial blue and studded with silver stars to convey a sense of the canopy of the heavens.

The Reredos (the carved wooden screen behind the altar) is a memorial to the Fallen of the First World War. It is an oak triptych showing Christ in Glory surrounded by shields, figures of saints and emblems representing the Allies of Great Britain in the First World War together with the countries of the United Kingdom. The "wings" show shields of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

The Reredos was designed by W.D. Caroe, FSA and was erected in 1916.

The scheme of decoration for the sanctuary, chancel and baptistry is the work of Mr. Ernest Maufe, R.A., who is a leading authority on the construction, internal design and decoration of ecclesiastical buildings and is the architect of Guildford Cathedral.

The organ was built by Rothwells of Harrow in 1906 and rebuilt by Rushworth and Dreaper of Liverpool in 1974.

Also within the Nore Memorial Chapel is a copper plaque: a memorial to Robert England Watson.

- Calcutta** A cruiser sunk 1.6.41 by air attack North of Alexandria. The badge shows part of the Arms of the City of Calcutta.
- Encounter** A destroyer sunk 1.3.42 by Japanese squadron in the Java Sea. One meaning of encounter is - "to meet in hostile fashion".
- Felixstowe** A minesweeper sunk 18.12.43 by a mine off Sardinia. The badge design uses part of the Arms of the Town of Felixstowe.
- WINDOW No. 8**
- Eagle** An aircraft carrier sunk 11.8.42 by U.73 in Western Mediterranean. The design of the badge illustrates the name.
- Bramble** A minesweeper sunk 31.12.42 by the German cruiser "Admiral Hipper" The badge design illustrates the name
- Arbutus (D.F.W.)** A corvette sunk 5.2.42 by U.136 in North Atlantic. Badge illustrates the flower's name.

THE MEMORIALS

The North Aisle (from the West End)

- Large Brass Roll of Honour to Officers, Petty Officers and Men who died 1914/18
- Cast Bronze Plaque: Commemorating the Men of HMS Welshman
- Stained Glass Window 1: St. Barbara - donated by R.N. Gunnery School
- Cast Bronze Plaque: Commemorating the Men who died in HM Submarine Truculent
- Stained Glass Window 2: St. Christopher - in memory of Stoker Petty Officer William Henry Hunt of HMS Curacoa 1942
- Brass Plate: Commemorating HMS Bulwark and HMS Princess Irene
- Stained Glass Window 3: St. Andrew - in memory of Leading Seaman Kenneth Bernard Jones of HMS Vernon 1941
- Brass Plate: Commemorating William Edward Munday of HMS Brilliant 1911
- Copper Plaque: Commemorating those who gave their lives on HMS Jervis Bay, 5th November 1940
- Stained Glass Window 4: St. Oswald - a memorial to the Officers and Men of HM Tug St. Genny 1930.
- Fumed Oak Plaque: In memory of the Officers and Men of HMS Kelly, 1940 and 1941
- Circular builders' plaque commemorating HMS Shearwater
- Stained Glass Window 5: St. Patrick - In memory of the Officers and Men of HM Submarines H47 and L12 1929
- Cast Bronze Plaque: Commemorating the Scott Antarctic Expedition 1912 (Capt. Scott, Dr. Wilson, Capt. Oates, Lieut. Bowers and PO Evans)
- Brass Plaque: Attached to pillar - telling history of Battle Ensign of HMS Havock 1942

Stained Glass Window 6: St. David - In memory of AB Harry Park-Temple 1929.

Marble Tablet: In memory of the Officers and Men of HMS Calypso

Stained Glass Window 7: St. George - Donated by Commodore H.S. Shipway

Brass Plaque: To commemorate donation of 3 bells -No 1. from HMS Birmingham as memorial to Vice Admiral Maurice Fitzmaurice, Petty Officer Alfred Mitchell and Engine Room Artificer Clifford Bristow Nos. 2 and 3 The Commodore, Officers and Men of Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham

The window recesses of Stained Glass Windows Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 contain badges of HMS Curacao, Welshman, Encounter, Mercury, Grenade, Kipling, Picotee, Boadicea, Calcutta and Wolfhound.

North Clerestory (from the East End)

Shield 1 (corner): A memorial to HMS Bedford 1910

Stained Glass Windows 1, 2 and 3: A memorial to King George V
(Depict - 1, St. George, 2, St. Nicholas, 3, St. Edmund)

Shield 2: A memorial to HMS Inflexible 1914/18

Shield 3: A memorial to HMS Mars 1915/16

Stained Glass Window 4: Christ Walking upon the Waters -
A memorial to those who died in HMS Electra 1942

Shield 4: A memorial to HMS Penelope, 1914/16

Shield 5: A memorial to HMS Chatham 1912/16

Shield 6: A memorial to HMS Llewellyn 1914/17

A memorial to HMS Strongbow 1917

A memorial to HMS Zulu 1916