

First True Stories

Submarine Torbay



Written by Christina Eastwood

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This is a true story and it happened during the second world war.

About 80 years ago, submarine Torbay was patrolling in the Me-di-terr-a-ne-an. Her commander, whose name was Anthony Miers, was looking through his per-i-scope and he saw lots of enemy ships.

At top speed, he set off after them, but before he could get close enough to use his torp-e-does, the enemy ships slipped into a harbour, just as it was getting dark.

Anthony Piers knew that the entrance to the harbour would be mined, but he followed the convoy into the harbour, stopped his engines and allowed the Torbay to rest on the bottom.

Commander Miers wanted to wait until daylight, but the submarine's batteries

started to run low. They could only be charged by going to the surface. If he went to the surface, the enemy would see the submarine.

He lifted his periscope. The harbour was quiet and there were no boats moving. The moon was full and it was very light. If they were spotted then the enemy would fire their guns on them.

Hardly daring to breathe, the crew brought the submarine to the surface. The hatches were lifted and the batteries began to recharge. For two hours, the Torbay gently and helplessly floated on the surface of the harbour, with the moon shining like a search light. Once her batteries were charged, she sank once more to the bottom and waited until daybreak.

Finally the wait was over. Commander Miers looked through his periscope and saw his targets. He fired three torpedoes. One of

them missed, but the other two destroyed two ships laden with amm-u-ni-tion.

Having fired, the submarine sank once more to the bottom. Soon the harbour was alive. Anti-submarine ships started searching for submarines and dropping submarine destroying weapons into the water. Spotting planes hovered in the sky.

The submarine shook and quivered at the bottom, but thankfully no damage was done. As soon as he had the chance, Anthony Miers raced for the entrance and was soon safely out in the open sea.

Anthony Miers was awarded a medal called a Victoria Cross and 27 of his crew received awards for their bravery.