

1896 - 1917

CAPTAIN RICHARD AGIUS

*The Centenary
Celebration*

28TH OCTOBER 2017
DOWNSIDE ABBEY

RICHARD VICTOR JOSEPH ROY (DICKIE) AGIUS

Captain 2/3rd Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)
19th September 1896 – 26th October 1917

“Captain gave the signal to advance and ... went right to the front, even to the line of skirmishers ... We halted two or three times ... to let the Company come up to the line again. It was after one of these halts ... that he fell.”

Letter from Sgt Robert Lake to E.T.Agius, 2 Dec 1917

“He was only just twenty-one, overflowing with enthusiasm for his job, generous to a fault, beloved by his fellow officers, and worshipped by his men.”

Quoted by Dom Lucius Graham in “Downside and The War”

“Oh, I'll never come back.”

*Richard's last words to his sister-in-law, Maggie Agius (née Samut)
as he left 22 Downside Crescent for the last time.*

TIMELINE

- 19 Sep 1896 – Richard Agius born at 3 Belsize Grove, Hampstead.
- Sep 1907 -
- 31 July 1914 – Educated at Downside.
- 7 Sep 1914 – Commissioned as Second Lieutenant, 2/3rd Batn. London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). Training in Kent.
- 31 Dec 1914 – Arrives in Malta.
- 24 Apr 1915 – Moves to Khartoum. Garrison duty and guarding the railway.
- 15 Sep 1915 – Leaves Khartoum en route for Gallipoli.
- 30 Sep 1915 – Land in Suvla Bay – occasional skirmishes with the enemy.
- 28 Nov 1915 – The great flood – 2/3rd London Reg. lose all but 50 men.
- Nov 1915 – Evacuated to Mudros for treatment of his frostbite.
- Jan 1916 – Returns to Egypt, France then back to UK in June.
- Jul 1916 – Declared unfit for general service on medical grounds.
- Oct 1916 – Joins 4/3^{rds} in Torquay.
- 17 Mar 1917 – Promoted to Captain.
- May 1917 – Returns to the new 2/3^{rds} near Bullecourt.
- 16 June 1917 – Assault on the Hindenburg Line near Bullecourt.
- 24 Aug 1917 – 2/3^{rds} moved to the Ypres theatre.
- Sep 1917 – Two weeks in the trenches a few miles east of Poelcapelle.
- End of Sep -
- 23rd Oct 1917 – 2/3^{rds} sent back to France for more training.
- 22 Oct 1917 – Writes stunt letter.
- 23 Oct 1917 – Arrives back at Poelcapelle before the next big push.
- 26 Oct 1917 – Killed in action leading his men.

RICHARD'S STUNT LETTER

2, October 22 Monday

Dearest Mabel & Paler & all

This is just a short note in case of anything happening - But whatever does happen is all for the best & only what God wills for us. We are in ~~the~~ such a state of "rush" that I haven't time to say much. The orders came very suddenly.

I am going in putting all my trust in God & maybe do what he wills, I shall try & do my bit & take things as they come. You must try to do well. Yes. I know how very much harder it will be for you all,

2

If I am unlucky, I'll all have to pay them back with interest.

The one thing I am sorry for is that I haven't had much chance of showing how grateful I am to you all for what you have done for me. I shall never be able to make up for all, but can only hope ~~to~~ you will take the work for the deed. I was very fortunate in being able to get to Mars & Holy Communion this morning. What a truly wonderful thing our religion is & how easy it makes things for us however hard & difficult they may be. So my orders in short are back up & keep going strong & be cheery once more as soon

3

as you can. Don't worry about me. I shall be alright. Please don't be too upset. I do go as it really is all for the best. For myself I don't mind what happens - it's far worse for you but do try & minimize it as much as you can. I am sorry I can't write this up with I know you don't like a pencil, well however I could do on writing forever but just remember how much I am to be able to do my bit & keep up the traditions of the 'A's'.

PS. Keep an eye on the kiddies for me (all the grand-children).
Well
Good bye all
cheerly
best love
from
your loving son
Dick.
P.S.

P.S. I never was much of a hand at letter writing so I can't say what I really feel.

I have a generous lot of men & only & pray I do my share in leading them well & unambiguously to the destruction of that foul blight the Boosh. I never really hated him till I saw his work in the evacuated area & saw Churches blown up etc. Well cheerish see you one day till then.
Sally

TRANSCRIPTION

Dearest Mater and Pater and all,

October 22 Monday

This is just a short note in case of anything happening. But whatever does happen its all for the best & only what God wills for us. We are in such a state of "rush" that I haven't time to say much. The orders came very suddenly.

I am going in putting all my trust in God and may he do what he wills. I will try to do my bit and take things as they come. You must try to as well. Tho' I know how very much harder it will be for you all. If I am unlucky tell old Alfonse to pay them back with interest.

The one thing I am sorry for is that I haven't had much chance of showing how grateful I am to you all for what you have done for me. I shall never be able to make up for all; but can only hope you will take the wish for the deed.

I was very fortunate in being able to get to Mass and Holy Communion this morning. What a truly wonderful thing our religion is and how easy it makes things for us however hard and difficult they may be. So my orders in short are buck up and keep going strong and be cheery once more as soon as you can. Don't worry about me I shall be alright. Please don't be too upset if I do go as it really is all for the best.

For myself I don't mind what happens - its far worse for you but do try and minimize it as much as you can. (I am sorry I didn't write this in ink. I know you don't like a pencil). Well! However I could go on writing forever but just remember how proud I am to be able to do my bit and keep up the traditions of the "Ag's". Well!

PS: Keep an eye on
the kiddies for me
(all the grand-children)

Good bye all,
cheeryoh,
best love and kisses
Your loving son
Dick

PTO:

PS: I never was much of a hand at letter writing so I can't say what I really feel. I have a glorious lot of men & I only pray I do my share in leading them well & successfully in the destruction of that foul blight the Bosch. I never really hated him until I saw his work in the evacuated area and saw churches blown up, etc. Well cheeroh.

See you one day till then.

Sahha!!

CHILDHOOD

Richard Victor Joseph Roy Agius was born on 19th September 1896 at 3 Belsize Grove, Hampstead, the home of his father and mother, Edward Tancred Agius and Maria Concetta (née Muscat). He enjoyed his childhood, taking clear delight in stamping on his brother's foot for one photo, and pretending to use binoculars for another. He clearly enjoyed looking after his many nephews and nieces as he grew up.



- Young Dickie
- Dickie with Laura and family
- With Tancred, Arthur and Pater on holiday
- Playing hockey in the garden at Belsize Grove
- With niece Josephine Burns

DOWNSIDE

After receiving his early education at St Mary's, St Leonards-on-Sea, he started at Downside in September 1907 and left in July 1914. His was an active and enthusiastic nature, deeply religious, and full of energy and zeal in work and games. He played in the Hockey Eleven and in the Cricket Second Eleven, and represented his house at sport on many occasions. During his last year at Downside he was one of the School Prefects.

He was a member of Roberts house and was clearly very well thought of by his Headmaster, Father Ramsay. His final days were somewhat spoilt by an accident while rehearsing a gymnastic display which resulted in a damaged nose and a flurry of worried letters to and from home.



• Dickie at Downside • Downside 1st Hockey Xi, 1912 (top row 2nd right)
• Downside Prefects 1914 (3rd from right middle row)

OFFICER TRAINING CORPS



He was a very keen member of the Officer Training Corps, and represented Roberts house in two House Competitions. He rose through the ranks, attaining the rank of sergeant in 1913. He also developed into a good marksman and in 1913 he won the silver medal in the Gregorian Shooting Competition. Unfortunately, his gymnastics injury prevented him from joining his final OTC camp in 1914.



- Downside O.T.C. Camp, Tidworth
- Downside O.T.C. Camp, Bordon, 1912 (Dickie 6th from left standing – with Lance Corporal's stripe)

JOINING THE COLOURS - 7 SEP. 1914

Richard left Downside School in the summer of 1914. When Britain declared war on Germany that August he was still too young for a Commission. His brothers Alfred, Edgar & Arthur, had already responded to the 'Great Call'.

He spent the intervening weeks in drilling volunteers in plain clothes in the park, and in digging trenches in the garden and working out operations at his desk. One day as he marched his informal platoon through London he saw one of the Downside monks. Thinking he should acknowledge the monk he ordered "Eyes Right" which his men obeyed but were left wondering at whom it was directed.

On 7th September he received his commission in the 2/3rd Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). After ten week's initial training in Kent the Battalion embarked for Malta for further training before deployment in the Middle East.

ARMY FORM E 586

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO A COMMISSION IN THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

N.B. - It is of great importance, especially in the case of Candidates for the Regular Forces, that the names given in the Birth Certificate should be correctly stated on this form, and it is to be clearly understood that, where they differ, the names and date of Birth given in the Birth or Baptismal Certificate will be accepted for Official record. The attention of General Officers Commanding-in-Chief is invited to War Office letter of the 28th March, 1907, No. 100, No. 1 (C. B. S. L.)

Regiment or Corps for which recommended
2/3rd London Regt Royal Fusiliers

If more than one Battalion Regt., for which Indication recommended
None

Back to which to be appointed
None

1. Are you a British subject by Birth or naturalisation?
Yes

2. Are you of pure European descent?
Yes

3. What is your full Surname?
Agius

4. What is your full Christian name?
Richard Victor Joseph Agius

5. What is the exact date of your birth? (Give "B.M." dates)
1895

6. What is your height?
5' 9 1/2 (69 1/2 inches)

7. Where were you born?
London

8. In what school or college were you educated?
Downside School Bath

9. What is your address for correspondence?
Downside School Bath

10. What is your profession or occupation?
None

11. Do you now hold a Commission, or are you now serving in any of His Majesty's Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Auxiliary, Indian or Colonial Forces, the Channel Islands Militia, or the Officers Training Corps? If so, state the nature of the commission held, or the capacity in which you are serving.

12. Have you held a Commission in or have you served in any of His Majesty's Regular, Reserve, Territorial, Auxiliary, Indian or Colonial Forces, the Channel Islands Militia, or the Officers Training Corps?
None

If so, state —
 a. The Regiment or Corps in which you served.
 b. If commissioned, the date of the resignation of your commission.
 c. Your rank or retirement.
 d. If not commissioned, the date of your discharge, or were discharged, and
 e. The circumstances in which you retired, or were discharged, and
 f. Whether you have served in any campaign. If you have, attach a statement certified by a Senior Officer who is personally cognizant of such service.

13. Have you been nominated for any other Regiment or Corps?
None

I certify the above answers to be correct.
 Usual Signature of Candidate
R.V. Agius

Date *August 21st 1914*

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE
 I certify that *Richard V. Agius* is fit in health for the discharge of the duties of an Officer of the Territorial Force.
 Signature *James Logan*
 Date *21/8/14*

(See over)



- Richard's Commission Questionnaire [TNA WO374/473] The handwriting is his own
- Soldiers of the London Regiment training at Dingli, Malta



Imperial War Museum Photograph

KHARTOUM

In April 1915 Richard left Malta as his Brigade made for Alexandria in Egypt: and we hear of him trying, amid the busy confusion of disembarking, to secure a chaplain to hear the confessions of his Catholic men. Alexandria was the birthplace of his father Edward, in 1849 – so another homecoming of sorts for Richard – but not for long, as the battalion moved down river to Khartoum, in the Sudan for garrison and railway duty. There were meetings too with native Arab chieftains, and a chance to hear stories of General Gordon from the Australian Archbishop who knew him.



- Relaxing at Khartoum
- Rifle practice in the Sudan
- At camp in the Sudan
- Guard duty on the Sudan Railway

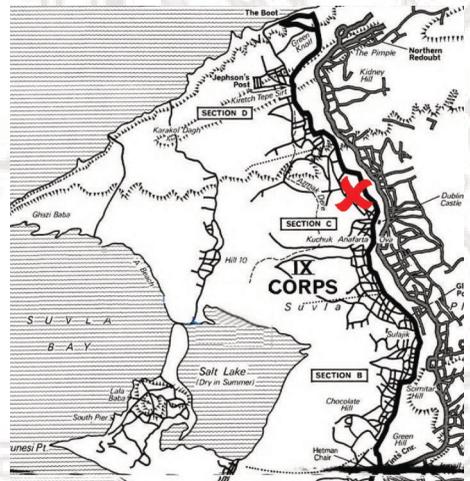
SUVLA BAY - 28 NOV. 1915

In September 1915, the 2/3rd Londons were relieved in Khartoum and a few days later sailed from Alexandria en route to Mudros to play their part in the Gallipoli campaign. They landed at Suvla Bay at the end of September and were deployed on the left of their brigade on the slopes of a steep-sided valley that swept down from the hills towards the sea. For the next few weeks their part of the front was fairly quiet and Dickie saw very little action.



Everything changed on the evening of 28th November. The weather was atrocious; there had been several days of rain and Dickie's CO, Lt-Col. F.W.D. Bendall, was concerned that the torrential rain had resulted in him missing his evening meal. As he searched for his gumboots, he "heard a strange sound. I could have sworn it was the sea, washing on the beach ..."

As I listened ... a great snake of water came round the curve - breast high - and washed me backwards into the dug-out." The water was up to his chin and with great difficulty he got onto the fire-step and clambered out of the trench. In the dark he located handfuls of men several of whom died of cold during the night. It was another forty-eight hours before rations could reach them. On the third day the battalion was able to crawl back to brigade headquarters. Just forty-five survivors from the battalion of 500 men.





Tancred's sermon recalled the events thus: "One night, not feeling very well, [Richard] lay in his dug-out in the trench. He awoke to a strange sound, struck a light and saw a foot of water in the dug-out. As he watched it rose steadily – a tremendous thunderstorm was raging. He saw in the frequent flashes of lightning, water running down the trench, sweeping with it accoutrements, bodies, and wreckage of all kinds. He got his men on to the fire step. Then as shooting was impossible in that inferno, on to the parapet. There they sat, wet through, all night, seeing their Turkish enemies in similar plight across the few yards of No Man's Land. One of his men was elderly, a prey to

rheumatism; ... He did not hesitate to give up his warm, waterproof coat to the man. Next day the wind changed to North and frost set in. Numbed but still vigilant, the young officer organised the defences as best he might. At last they were relieved; but his feet were frozen and it was many days before he could walk again."



Richard was evacuated to hospital in Mudros, then returned to Egypt in January 1916. Others were taken to Malta where his connections won approval from a fellow officer, Capt. Wallace, who recorded in his memoirs: "Our Maltese Subaltern Agius had, needless to say, many friends and relations on the island and some of these made a point of watching for casualties from our regiment. As a result I was soon visited by them ... There was also a good deal of leg pulling over all the beautiful Maltese ladies who came to see me on the introduction of the Agius family."

- Men of the London Regiment at Gallipoli using a grenade-launching catapult
- Military hospital at Mudros

MEDICAL BOARDS

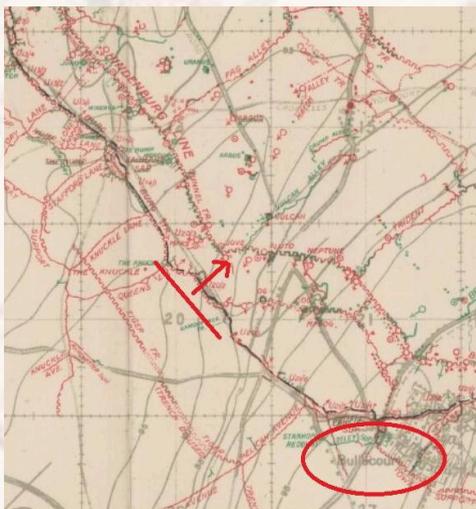
Richard continued to suffer from the effects of the injuries and privations he received at Gallipoli for many months. He went before a series of Medical Boards until he was finally declared fit for General Service on 4th May 1917. Just six weeks later he was in the thick of his first major action.

BULLECOURT - 16 JUNE 1917

The Battalion War Diary gives a dispassionate view of this action which aimed to build on gains made by the Australians a few weeks earlier.

June 16 – Objective – HINDENBURG SUPPORT LINE -3.10 a.m. (ZERO)

The Barrage descended – the line advanced, but the Main Objective was not achieved. Apparently 'B' & 'D' Coys waited behind the Barrage ... Machine Gun & Rifle Fire, & prevented them gaining their objective. 'A' Coy & 'B' Coy 2/5 Lon. Regt. apparently went beyond their objective as far as the Protective Barrage. The Batt finally held the SUNKEN ROAD & the HINDENBURG FRONT LINE, which were subjected to determined enemy Bombing Attacks ... Very great discomfort was suffered by all Ranks, owing to Tropical heat & lack of water.



- Official trench map of the Bullecourt area. The arrow marks the thrust of the Londons' attack.

June 17 2.30 a.m. – The Batt was relieved ... Casualties:- [9 Officers & 222 Other Ranks, killed, wounded or missing]

Dickie's letter home was more forthcoming –

June 20th – In billets. Safe!

Dearest Mater & Pater & all,
I don't know what to say about the stunt & what to leave out. Its very difficult. I went out before we started about 12 midnight to lay out tapes to act as guides. We got badly crumped while so doing. A Coy lost about 15 men ... in the first five minutes. Thus leaving me as O.C. of A Coy & [the Coy] on our right ... C Coy holding the lines were getting wiped out ... we were heavily shelled all the way up to "C" Coy, however we arrived just in time. We got there 15 minutes before zero ... we heard the guns bang at zero we all dashed on. The men were splendid ... Some of our Battn on my left went on too far and are lost. When we got through the remains of the Boche wire ... we could see no trench at all – merely shell hole on shell hole.

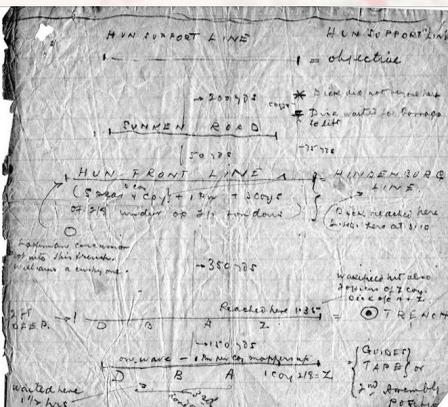


All the time we were being unmercifully shelled. I must be everlastingly grateful to God for protecting me. Men kept on getting hit around [sic] me by the score. We tried to dig in where we were but decided it was useless, so we took up a new position 50 yards in the rear in a deep sunken road ... We had 24 hours on one water bottle and it was hell on earth. None to spare for the wounded either, but the lads managed to give some of theirs. The men were simply priceless ... Thank heavens we got away alright, it was tough.

More news later. Cheery Oh.

Best love to all
Dick

Tobacco Fryers Original Cut. Urge[n]t please.



- All that remained of Bullecourt village
- Arthur Agius's hand drawn map explaining the action

POELKAPPELLE - 26 OCT 2017

Apart from the week of 16-22 September, the 2/3rd Londons spent September and early October training at Poperinghe, several miles west of Ypres and at Nordausques in France. What then followed is best told by the Battalion War Diary (written daily in the trenches):

Oct 23 – The Battalion [arrived at] Reigersburg station at 8 pm and then marched into billets at CANAL BANK.

Oct 24 – Equipping of Battalion with Battle stores and Bn moved up into the line relieving the Middlesex on the East of POELCAPPELL, relief being completed at 7:30 am on the 25th. Meteor. Notes: Cold and heavy rain especially during relief.
Strength: 15 Off & 616 O.R.

Oct 25 – Reconnoitring of Assembly Position and taping out of same. Battalion moved up into position and were complete on Assembly Line by 1 am on morning of 26th. Meteor. Notes: Cold & rain began at about midnight continuing all night.

Oct 26 – At 5:40am being zero hour the Battalion advanced to attack NE of POELCAPPELL supported by 57th Division on our left and the 2/2 Bn London with the 63rd Division on our right. Owing to the appalling condition of the ground the progress of the advance was very slow & in some cases the men were unable to keep up with our Artillery Barrage.



The Infantry were held up at several points by M.G. & rifle fire ... We were able to advance to points about halfway towards our Final Objective ... but owing to heavy German Counter attack and the large number of casualties especially amongst the officers and our flanks being exposed, we were forced to withdraw. We managed to take up a position on our Assembly Line ... and we were shortly afterwards reinforced by 3 Coys of the 2/1st London who were in support ... Our Commanding Officer was mortally wounded during the early morning in trying to reorganize our position after being forced back. The Battalion was relieved about 11 am by the 2/1st London and moved out of the line to SIEGE CAMP (near Elverdinghe). **Strength: 4 Officers 224 OR (approx.).**

NEWS AND FATHER RAMSAY'S LETTER

Dear Father Ramsay,

You will have grieved to hear of the death in action in France of my youngest son, Captain Richard Agius.

I now ask you kindly to convey the sad news to the Abbot, Community and my grandchildren, asking for their prayers.

I am now anxious about my other sons ...

Yours sincerely

E.T.Agius

Dear Mr.Agius

There is no need for me to say how grieved I was to get your letter of the second, containing the sad news.

After our long association I know something of what your boys are to you, and what your sorrow must be in the face of this terrible blow, which has fallen upon you.

It was my privilege to have Richard under my care since he was a small boy, I have shared your pride in him, and your other splendid boys. From my intimate knowledge of him, I can understand a little of the loss you have to bear.

The war is consuming steadily the young life on which the hope of the future rested. We know that they have fallen in the performance of their duty to the utmost, and we must believe that the Sacrifice which they have made will be fruitful in ways we cannot understand.

The very fact that Richard was all that you and I know him to have been, makes it all the harder for those that are left to bear the loss. Fortunately our Faith throws a light on the darkness, and gives us the assurance that those we have lost are in the fullest sense in the hands of God.

You may be sure that many masses and prayers will be offered for your boy, and for you. A Requiem will be said on Thursday for him, and the school will attend.

In the face of such a sorrow as yours, the fewest words are best, but I send these few lines to assure you of my sincere sympathy, and earnest prayers.

Yours very sincerely

Father Ramsay

CENTENARY CELEBRATION - MEMORIAL MASS

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF RICHARD VJR AGIUS 1896 - 1917

Celebrant: Dom Christopher Calascione OSB

Please do not take photographs during the Mass and turn off all mobile phones - thank you

OPENING RITE

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. Oh God, our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

2. Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or each received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God
To endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.

5. Oh God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last
And our eternal home.

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

In response to the greeting of the Priest:

All: And with your spirit.

Please sit

Welcome from Downside Abbey Monastic community.

The “Stunt Letter”: Last words home
by Richard Agius, 22nd October 1917.

Reader: Richard Agius

Please stand

PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge ... to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Priest: ... Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: ... Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy

Priest: ... Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us ... and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

FIRST READING

Wisdom 4:7-13

Reader: Nina Lightfoot

Reader: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32 (33)

Cantor: Eleanor Oliver

**Response: May your love be upon us O Lord
As we place all our hope in you**
Repeat after Cantor

Give thanks to the Lord upon the lyre
With a ten-stringed harp sing him songs.
Oh sing him a song that is new,
Play loudly, with all your skill.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
The people he has chosen as his own.
From the heavens the Lord looks forth,
He sees all the children of men.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
And all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
And fills the earth with his love.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Reader: Lara Smith-Bosanquet

Reader: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Apocalypse 14:13

Cantor: Eleanor Oliver

Repeat after Cantor and after verse sung by Cantor
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Happy are those who die in the Lord!
Now they can rest for ever after their work,
Since their good deeds go with them.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And with your Spirit.
Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
All: Glory to you, O lord.

GOSPEL

John 15:12-17

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit

HOMILY

From the memorial sermon given by
Dom Ambrose Agius OSB; 5th February 1923.

Reader: George Denaro

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Readers: Young members of the family

Reader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our Prayer.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

The priest offers prayers of blessing over the gifts

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Please stand when the Priest says:

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, ... the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord

Priest: Let us give thanks to
the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

After the Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or sit

After the Words of Consecration

Priest: The mystery of faith

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please stand

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven ...but deliver us from evil.**
Priest: Deliver us, Lord ... the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**
Priest: Lord Jesus Christ ... for ever and ever.
All: **Amen.**
Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**
Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God ... supper of the Lamb.
All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Everyone here today who is not in full communion with the Catholic Church is warmly invited to come forward and ask for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Abide With Me - Words: Henry F. Lyte, Music: Eleanor Oliver

Soloist: Eleanor Oliver

FINAL READING

Letter of condolence from
Dom Leander Ramsay OSB, November 1917.

Reader: Mark Vassallo

CONCLUDING RITES

Please Stand

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**
Priest: May almighty God bless you ... and the Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

After the words of dismissal

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

1. Oh Valiant Hearts, who to your glory
came
Through dust of conflict and through battle
flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallow'd in the Land you
loved.

2. Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to
war
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
The save mankind, yourselves you scorned
to save.

3. Splendid you passed, the great surrender
made,
Into the light that never more shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

*The "Last Post" followed by **one minutes
silence***

4. These were His servants, in his steps they
trod
Following through death the martyr'd Son of
God
Victor He rose; Victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

5. O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our Dead
Whose Cross has brought them and whose
Staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing
Land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

Organist: David Bevan
Soloist: Matthew Oliver

*At the end of Mass will the family please proceed to the
Weld Café (via the Weld Cloister, to the right of the Sanctuary)*

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O God Our Help in Ages Past:
O Valiant Hearts:

Words by John Stanhope Arkwright (1872 - 1954)
Words by Isaac Watts (1674 - 1748)

WE GIVE THANKS

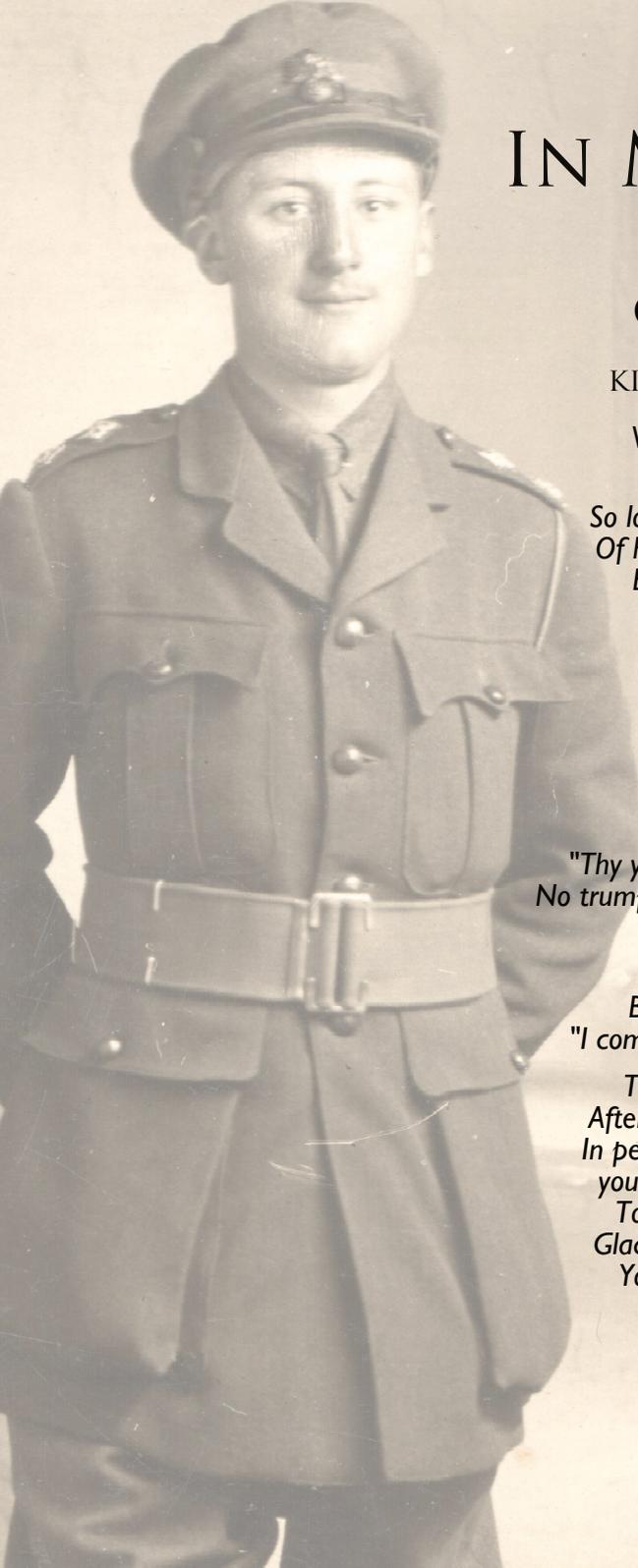
To the Prior and Community of Downside Abbey for their generous hospitality.

To Jane Vines and Sarah Kieck of the Downside Management team for all their help in organising and staging this Celebration.

For the talents, time, generosity and help freely given by: D. Christopher Calascione; Maggie & Arthur Denaro; Liz & John Dymond; Anne Greenway; Nina, Mark, and Olly Lightfoot; Eleanor & Matthew Oliver; Mark Vassallo; Marilyn & Peter Agius ... and all those who read, took photographs, guided tours and generally served on the day, and

"whose names and achievements were lost in the magnitude of the enterprise in which they were engaged". (D. Ambrose, 1923)





IN MEMORIAM

CAPTAIN R.V. AGIUS

KILLED 26TH OCTOBER 1917

*Where did you learn to die, Richard
so young*

*So love surrounded in the rainbow days
Of holyhood, growing so swift among a
Boy's uphill, his sunrise tinted ways?*

*'Twas where God's voice,
like valley softened bells'*

*Chimed in your soul at dawn,
or when the late*

*Dusk of an English summer
wore her Spells;*

*"Thy years I claim - the life I consecrate."
No trumpet yet had called, no tuck of drum
Struck sparks, built flame,
set all the World afire -*

*But you, still youth surrounded, said:
"I come Lord, to live or die at thy desire."*

*The many went to war eager to line,
After the brief alarm, the toil, the fears,
In peace well merited. You want, to give
your few, already well dedicated years.*

*To parents gratitude: For country, life
Gladly I give. So your last message ran.
You went to doom with dawn's heart
Quenching strife*

As radiant as now the son of man.

DOM AMBROSE AGIUS

10TH OCTOBER 1934