

Remembering our naval heroes of World War One

The unveiling of the memorial tree and plaque, at the National Memorial Arboretum



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A MEMORIAL plaque and cherry tree have been unveiled in honour of Merseyside's naval heroes in World War I.

The Mersey division of the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Club, commonly known as the Sea Urchins, raised funds among members to commemorate officers who served 100 years ago.

Its officers formed Howe Battalion in the war

and served at Gallipoli, France and Flanders. Members of the division also served aboard HMS Eaglet in World War II, playing an important role in the ultimate success of the Battle of the Atlantic.

But the commemorations were also dedicated to current and future officers, at a dedication ceremony on Saturday at the National Memorial Arboretum, in Staffordshire, a year-round centre of remembrance.

The service was conducted by the Chaplain, Rev John Williams MBE, with music from the Sutton Coldfield Sea Cadet Band. Anthony Muncher, secretary of the Sea Urchins, said: "A couple of our colleagues had been visiting the centre, and noticed there was nothing there to commemorate our units.

"So we thought we would raise some money among members to have one installed. It was a very moving, fantastic day for us - and we were very lucky with the weather."

He added that anyone wishing to see the plaque on visiting the centre could find it on Cherry Tree Avenue.



British troops on guard on the Gallipoli Peninsula, c 1915



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