

"H.M.S. BARTHAM" 1914-1941

This is a "Now it can be told" story. Four-twenty five in the Mediterranean, on the afternoon of November 25th, 1941. A salvo of torpedoes fired at close range struck H.M.S. Barham. The stricken battleship heeled over to port. Within four minutes of being hit her after magazine blew up. She sank with the loss of 859 lives.

The cause of the final explosion has never been ascertained; probably it will never be known. Barham was the only British battleship sunk at sea by a German U-boat during this war - the only time a submarine beat the Royal Navy's destroyer screen. There have been no more poignant pictures than these. We pay tribute to the gallant crew of H.M.S. Barham and salute the end of a noble ship.