

Victims of the Second World War in Northern Germany  
– Their Stories Must Be Remembered

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NOVEMBER 2025



# REMEMBRANCE & RECONCILIATION

AN EXHIBITION

Please book at: <http://bit.ly/3VNu846>

**The Centre of Military Research, Education and Public Engagement located in the former War Hospital at Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus and with the support of the German Consulate General in Edinburgh is honored to be welcoming this poignant and evocative exhibition to Edinburgh.**

For several years, dedicated volunteers from the Heimat-und Kulturkreis Kutenholz e. V. in Lower Saxony, Germany, have been researching the stories of local victims of the Second World War. Their work focuses especially on children of forced labourers and concentration camp prisoners, victims of Nazi psychiatry, prisoners of war, and Allied soldiers who lost their lives in the region.

A particular emphasis has been placed on uncovering the fate of British soldiers killed in the final days of the war when their tank and reconnaissance vehicle were attacked in Kutenholz. Among the fallen was Robin Tudsbery, who is now buried at the Cemetery of Honour in Becklingen. In his memory, his parents built the Robin Chapel in Edinburgh to commemorate their only son. Over time, a meaningful and lasting relationship has developed between the project's initiators in Kutenholz, the Tudsbery family, and the Robin Chapel. Today, this connection continues through regular exchanges, particularly around Remembrance Sunday.

In their search for the families of those affected, the volunteers have built an international network with contacts in Scotland, England, France, Australia, Canada, and Singapore. For many relatives, finally learning the fate of their loved ones—after decades of uncertainty—brings a profound sense of relief. In May 2022, memorial stones were unveiled in Kutenholz in honour of the victims. Fifteen relatives of British soldiers travelled to the small village to attend the inauguration ceremony.

The group's work has attracted significant media attention both locally and internationally. Coverage has appeared in multiple newspapers, including the Daily Mail, and the British television network ITV News Central has actively supported the search for victims' families. BBC Radio Sheffield aired a live interview with Debbie Bülau, the project's initiator. In a poignant gesture, the late Queen Elizabeth II sent two letters of thanks from Windsor Castle to Kutenholz. The late Queen had known Robin Tudsbery.

Debbie Bülau's extraordinary commitment was formally recognised by the United Kingdom with the awarding of a Medal of the British Empire (BEM), presented by the British Ambassador during a ceremony in Kutenholz earlier this year. Other volunteers who have made an essential contribution to the research are: Frank Hoferichter, Torsten Henneken, Reiner Klintworth and Frank Bartels.

As part of their work, the Kutenholz Memorial Group has developed a comprehensive exhibition that tells the stories of individuals whose fates have long been forgotten or deliberately concealed. The organisers hope the exhibition will inspire others to explore and engage with their own local history.

This exhibition stands as a powerful example of grassroots civic engagement. It movingly illustrates the enduring importance of confronting and understanding the personal tragedies of the victims of National Socialism—even 80 years after the end of the war.

**We hope you can join us to remember and reconcile.**



## About the Chapel

**The chapel at Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus is a striking feature of the historic site whose story stretches back to the late nineteenth century.**

The main building was originally constructed between 1877 and 1880 as the Craiglockhart Hydropathic Institution, designed by the architects Peddie & Kinnear in an Italianate style. Over time, the property's use evolved significantly. During the First World War it became a military hospital, and in the 1920s the building was taken over by the Society of the Sacred Heart, who established a convent and teacher training college there.

It was for this religious and educational community that the chapel was added in 1933. Designed by the distinguished architect Reginald Fairlie, working with J. Chisholm Cameron, the chapel was conceived in a modern Romanesque style and built as an extension to the south of the main hydropathic building. The chapel forms part of a Category A listed complex, which includes the main hydropathic building, the gates, boundary walls, and other features of the landscaped site. From spa, to hospital, to convent, to university campus, the building endures as both a place of gathering and a monument to the changing purposes of this historic Edinburgh site.

## Getting there:

**The Chapel, Craiglockhart Campus 219 Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH14 1DJ (enter via main reception)**

### BY BUS

Several **Lothian Buses** services from the city centre stop close to the campus:

- Services 4, 10, 27 and 45 stop on nearby Colinton Road at bus stop '**Craiglockhart Campus**'
- Service 36 stops nearby at bus stop on Glenlockhart Road at bus stop '**Craiglockhart Campus**'.

### BY TRAIN

Slateford station is just under a mile from the campus, while Edinburgh Waverley and Haymarket stations are situated in the city centre.

### BY BIKE

Edinburgh is home to an expanding network of cycle paths and covered and secure bike storage is available.

