



FOLKESTONE GERMAN NAVAL MEMORIAL

Cheriton Road Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent

On 31 May 1878 the German iron-clad warship “Grosser Kurfurst” collided with another large German warship the “Konig Wilhelm” off the Folkestone coast. Local fishermen and sailors immediately went to the aid of the sinking “Grosser Kurfurst”. Despite their galliant actions 284 German sailors perished. A large and impressive memorial was placed in the Cheriton Road Cemetery to commemorate those members of crew who died in these tragic circumstances. At the beginning of the Great War the people of Folkestone thought that the German nation would repay the favour and not bomb the town. Such was the belief in this sentiment that many townsfolk still could not believe an air attack was taking place on 25 May 1917, even while the bombs were raining down upon the town!









