

March 25

**Memory verse for the week:**

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude,  
and as the voice of many waters,  
and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying,  
**Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**  
Revelation 19:6

**An Exciting Story to Read Aloud**

This true story comes from the Second World War. There are some hard words and technical terms which might need explaining as you go along which I have highlighted.

Towards the end of March, 1942, H.M. Submarine *Torbay* was on patrol in the Mediterranean, when her commander, Anthony Miers, searching the horizon with his **periscope**, saw a **convoy** of enemy ships with Italian **destroyers** in attendance.

With full speed ahead he set off in pursuit, but before he could get near enough to use his **torpedoes** the convoy slipped into the harbour of Corfu, just before darkness descended.

He knew that the entrance to the harbour would be heavily **mined** and that if he made a mistake it could mean death, but he followed the enemy ships in, stopped his engines and allowed the *Torbay* to rest on the bottom.

Commander Miers planned to wait there until daylight but when he heard that the submarine's batteries were running down he knew that he was in trouble. The batteries were necessary for the running of the submarine but they could only be re-charged on the surface.

He raised his periscope. The harbour was quiet, with not a boat moving, but a full moon made the scene almost as bright as day. If they were spotted it would bring all the guns of the harbour on them, but the batteries had to be charged. So, with the crew hardly daring to breathe, the submarine surfaced.

The **hatches** were lifted and the batteries began to recharge. For two hours the work continued with the *Torbay* moving gently and helplessly on the surface of the harbour with the moon overhead like a searchlight.

When the batteries were fully charged she sank again to the bottom to wait for dawn.

Finally the waiting was over. Commander Miers picked out his targets with the periscope and fired three torpedoes. One of them missed but the other two destroyed a pair of supply ships laden with **ammunition**.

After firing he dropped to the bottom again and waited. Soon the harbour was alive with anti-submarine vessels dropping depth charges, while spotting planes hovered in the sky.

The submarine rolled and shivered again and again as **depth charges** exploded, but, miraculously, no damage was done.

When the chance came, Commander Miers raced for the harbour entrance and was soon safely out in the open sea.

For his bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross and twenty-seven of his crew received **decorations** for **gallantry**.

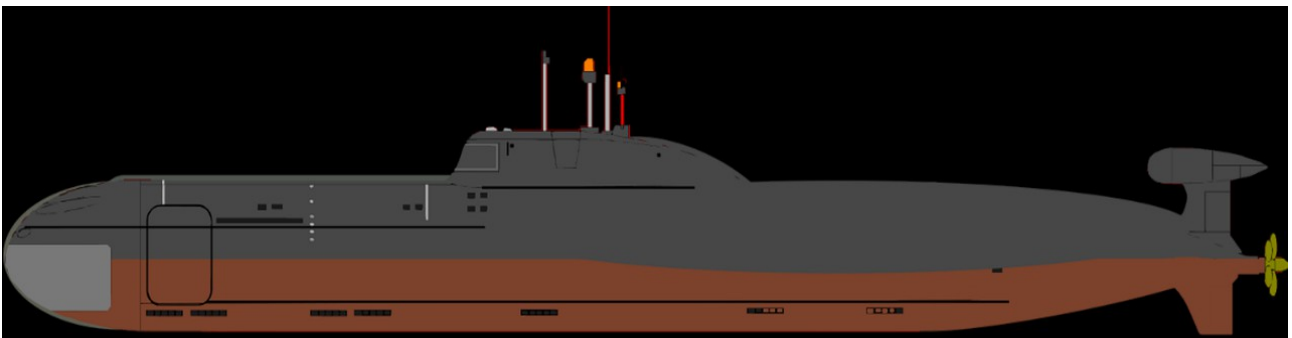
## Map Work

Find **Corfu** on a map. If you have a globe see if you can find it there. It is a beautiful and sunny place, as you can see from the picture, and nowadays people like to go there for their holidays.



## Something to draw

Can you draw a submarine? Here is a picture that might help you – or you could find your own picture to copy.



## Something to make

You can make your own periscope from the instructions in today's optional resources files.<sup>1</sup> You will need mirrors cut to size. Old CDs can be used as periscope mirrors. They can be cut with scissors if you warm them up first gently with a hair-dryer or in warm water. You might be able to make the cardboard part today even if you have to wait to get hold of some mirrors to finish it off and make it work. If you can't make a periscope get a mirror and use it to see behind you. Two mirrors are even better as you can stand in between them. What can you see?

## Something to think about

A periscope is useful to us because we human beings are limited in what we can see but the Lord God can see everything all the time. The Bible tells us, “The eyes of the Lord are in **every** place...” (Proverbs 15:3a). This is a comfort to us if we love and trust in Him.

## Something to do – Be a historian

The story we read comes from the Second World War. If you have grandparents give them a phone call and ask them what *their* parents told them about life in war time. If you note this down carefully you will be making your own record of history! We call history taken down from what people tell us by word of mouth “oral history”.

During this war our country, Britain, was fighting against a wicked ruler, Hitler, who wanted to invade our country and take away our freedom. Hitler thought that people from some nations (he called them “races”) in the world were better and stronger than others. He believed it was the destiny of the strongest “race” (his own, of course) to rule and even wipe out (kill) all the others. He had the idea that some “races” were inferior to others. This is not true because we are all descended from Adam and Eve. Hitler had this idea of races because he believed in **evolution**.

<sup>1</sup> Permission sought from <https://harwichhavenhistory.co.uk/sweets-at-the-station-kindertransport-education-resources/> 10/02/21

Evolution is the idea that the world began without God. Animals came into being on their own somehow, first as very simple things and then grew or *evolved* gradually to be better and more complicated. Eventually, from an animal rather like an ape, people evolved. They were not very clever at first. Hitler and those who thought like him were rude, unkind and plain wrong enough to think that the native people of Australia were not much better than ape like creatures! Hitler thought that he would get rid of people he thought were inferior and he murdered many millions of them. He killed people who were Jews or who had special educational needs. What a wicked thing to do! The Bible tells us that all people are equal in God's sight. As the Bible explains “And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...” Acts 17:26. We are all sinners who need a Saviour – Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Older children might be able to read <https://creation.com/racism-consequence-evolution> or watch the video at the end of the article.